



DAVID SCHWARTZ
MICAH GUNNELL
DAVID CURIEL

BE A STAR...

...A SUPERSTAR!

TM #0
COVER A

Vol. 1

Idolized





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MICAH GUNNELL
DAVID CUIRIL

BE A STAR...



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TM #0
COVER B

VOL. 1

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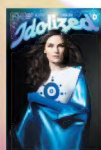
CREATED BY DAVID SCHWARTZ

Idolized

Every
Little
Thing
She
Does
Is
Tragic



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COMING THIS FALL,
ON THE MLT TV NETWORK,
A SHOW UNLIKE ANYTHING
YOU'VE EVER SEEN
BEFORE.



WE LIVE IN A WORLD
FILLED WITH SUPERHEROES;
MEN AND WOMEN BORN WITH
EXTRAORDINARY POWERS,
FAR BEYOND THOSE OF
MORTAL MEN.



MAYBE
YOU'RE ONE
OF THEM.

IF SO,
THE MLT TV
NETWORK IS GIVING
YOU A CHANCE TO
PROVE THAT YOU'VE
GOT WHAT IT
TAKES...



...NOT
JUST TO HAVE
POWERS, BUT TO
BE A TRUE
HERO.



LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN...

...THIS...



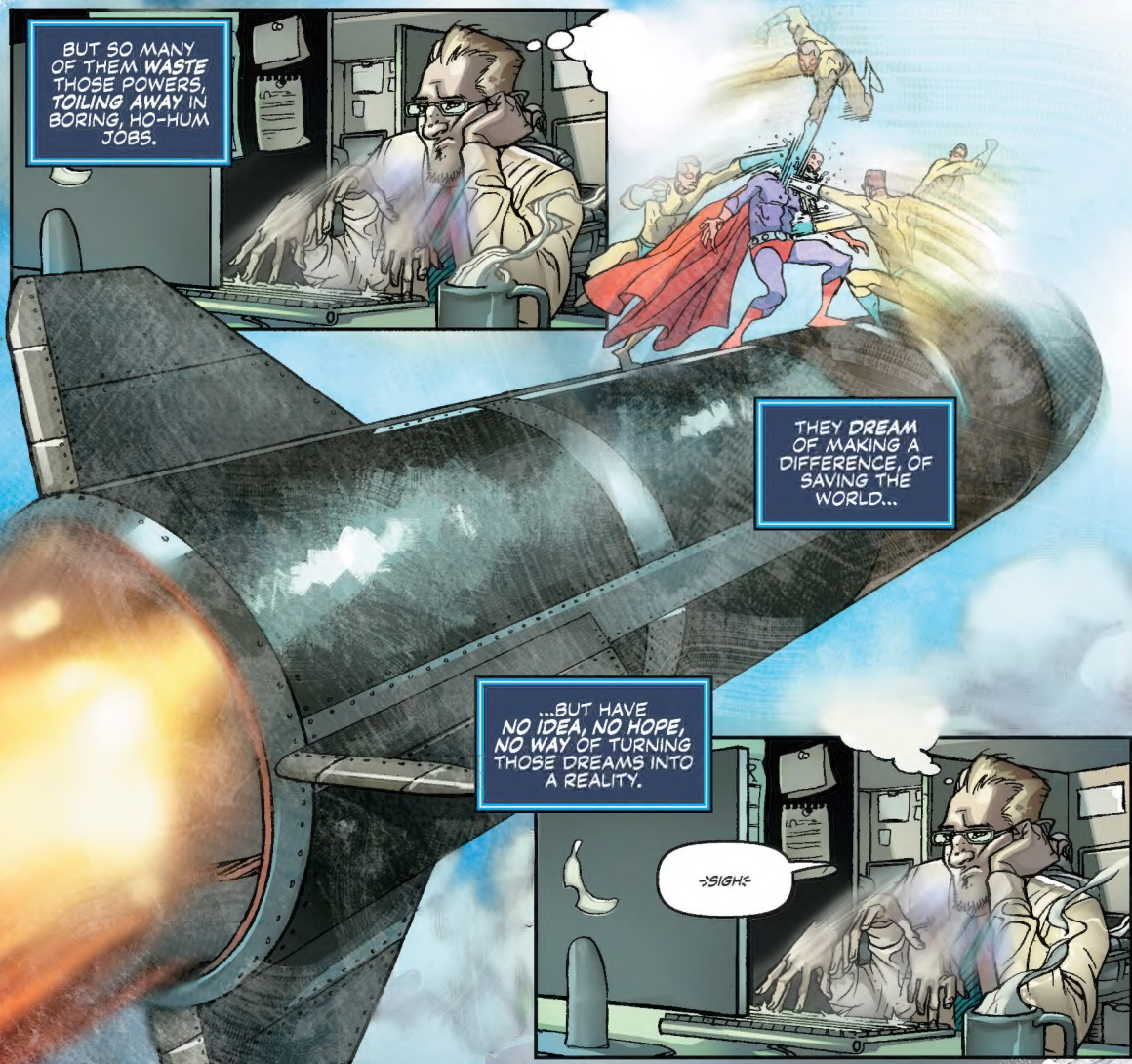


...IS

SUPERHERO IDOL



YES, A
WORLD OF PEOPLE
LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE
SUPER POWERS OF ONE
KIND OR ANOTHER.



BUT SO MANY
OF THEM WASTE
THOSE POWERS,
TOILING AWAY IN
BORING, HO-HUM
JOBS.

THEY DREAM
OF MAKING A
DIFFERENCE, OF
SAVING THE
WORLD...

...BUT HAVE
NO IDEA, NO HOPE,
NO WAY OF TURNING
THOSE DREAMS INTO
A REALITY.

-SIGH-



WELL, IN A FEW SHORT
MONTHS, RIGHT HERE ON
THIS STAGE, WE'LL BE GIVING
TEN LUCKY CONTESTANTS A
CHANCE TO CHANGE
THEIR LIVES...

...AND TO MAKE
THEIR DREAMS OF FAME,
FORTUNE AND HEROISM
ALL COME TRUE.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, TENS OF THOUSANDS HAVE AUDITIONED.



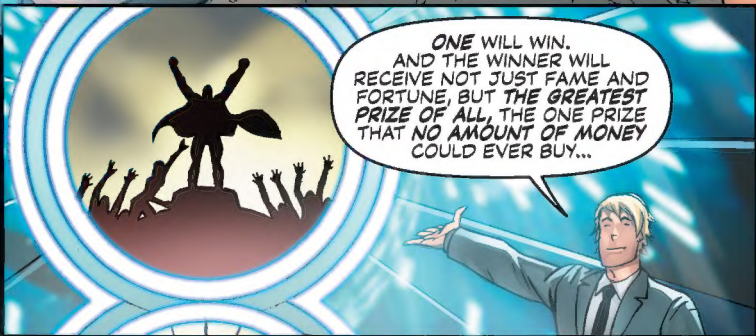
AND TEN LUCKY FINALISTS WILL BE CHOSEN TO COMPETE HERE IN NEW YORK, SUPER-HERO CAPITOL OF THE WORLD, BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ENTIRE NATION...



...GOING THROUGH INCREDIBLE, DEATH-DEFYING CHALLENGES, TESTING THEIR METTLE, THEIR COURAGE, THEIR POWERS... AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEIR HEART.



ONE WILL WIN. AND THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE NOT JUST FAME AND FORTUNE, BUT THE GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL, THE ONE PRIZE THAT NO AMOUNT OF MONEY COULD EVER BUY...



...A GUARANTEED OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GREATEST SUPER-GROUP IN WORLD HISTORY...

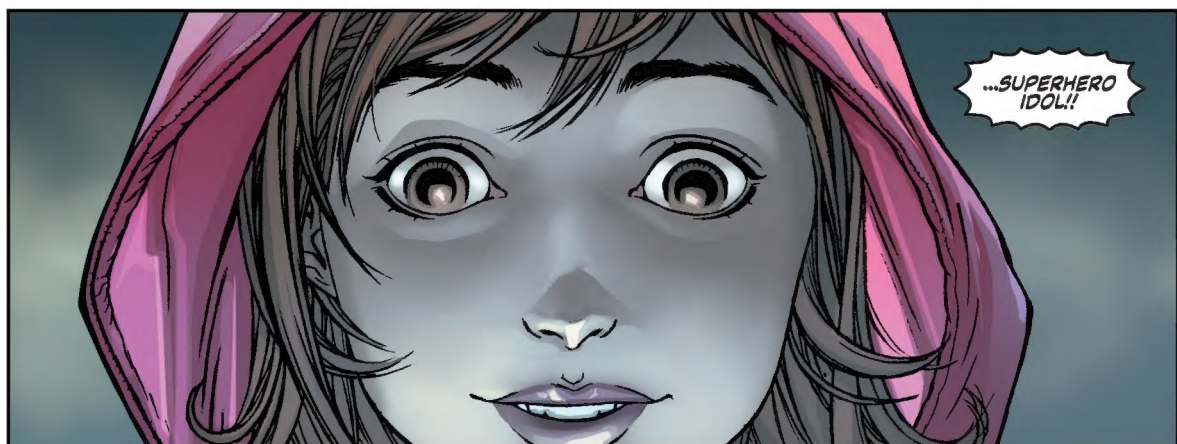
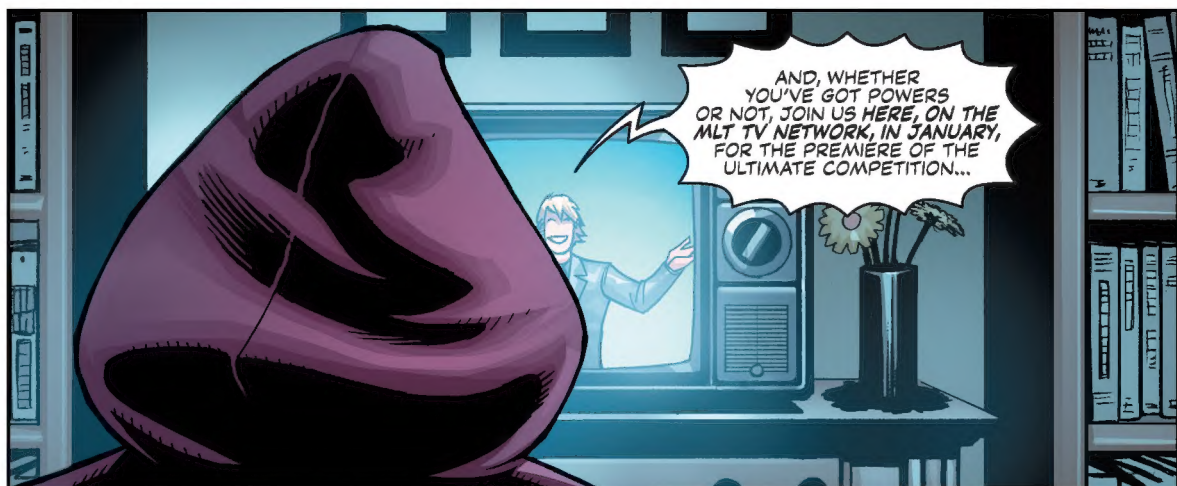
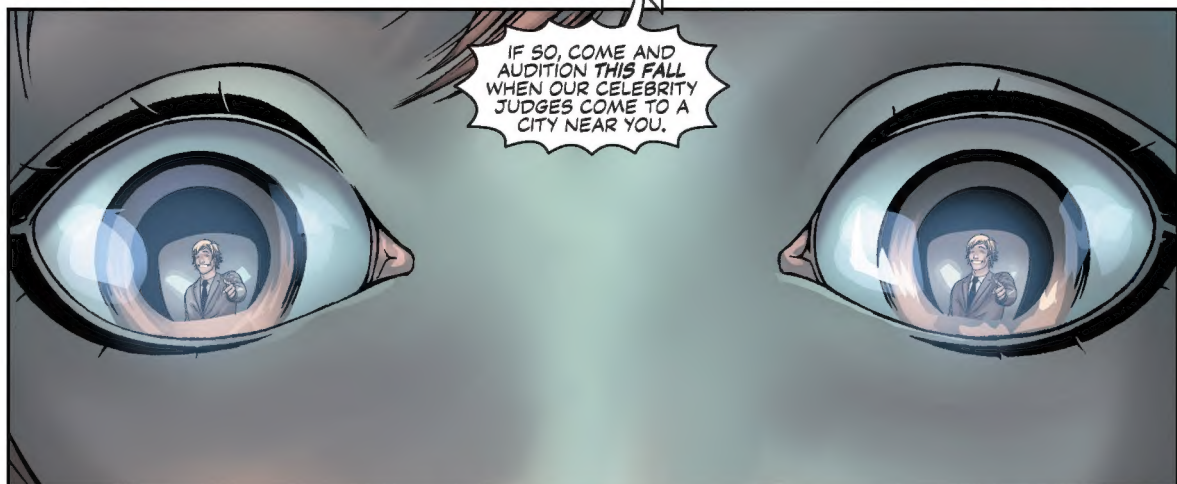


THE POWERED PROTECTORS



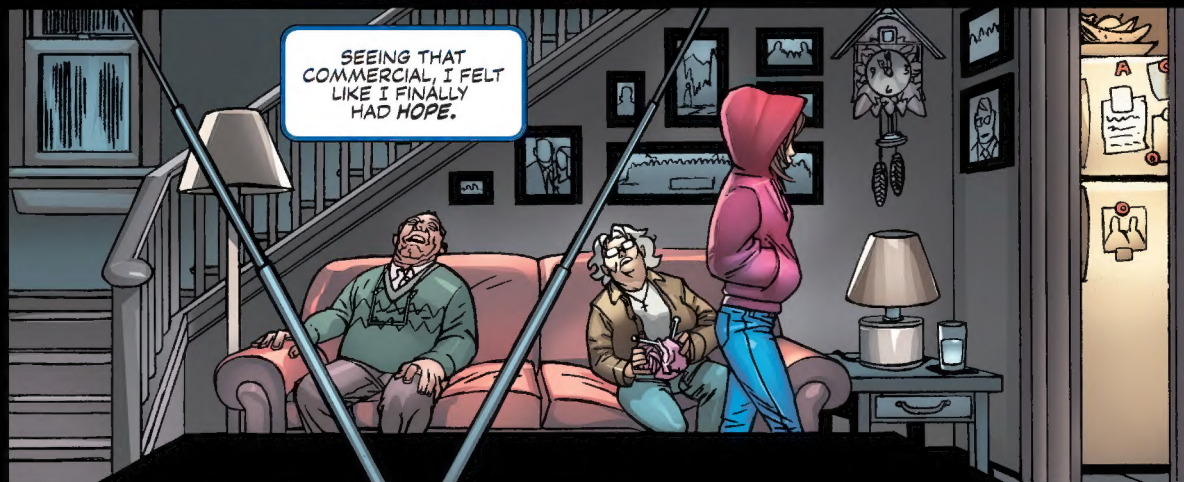
A CHANCE TO FIGHT
ALONGSIDE THE GREATEST
HEROES OUR WORLD HAS
EVER KNOWN.

TO BECOME A
MEMBER OF THE TRUE
SUPER-HERO ELITE, AND TO
HELP SAVE THE WORLD FROM
WHATEVER DANGERS
IT MAY FACE.





THAT WAS
THE MOMENT MY
LIFE CHANGED
FOREVER.



SEEING THAT
COMMERCIAL, I FELT
LIKE I FINALLY
HAD HOPE.



A FUTURE.



A CHANCE--
A SLIM CHANCE--
TO TURN MY LIFE
AROUND.

TO FINALLY EXACT MY REVENGE.



REVENGE AGAINST THIS GUY...

...STASIS!

THE
MAN WHO
DECIMATED
MY WORLD
AND RUINED
MY LIFE.

MADE ME
COMPLETELY
DOUBT MYSELF,
QUESTION MYSELF,
AND PRETTY
MUCH HATE
MYSELF.

BUT THAT'S
ALL STUFF YOU'LL
FIND OUT ABOUT
LATER.

FOR NOW, I'LL
JUST TELL YOU THAT HE
STARTED OUT AS A *PEACEFUL*
ACTIVIST, LEADING PROTESTS
AGAINST THE INFLUENCE THAT
CORPORATIONS HAVE OVER
OUR GOVERNMENT.

RAILING AGAINST HOW
CORPORATE AMERICA HAS BOUGHT
OUT OUR COUNTRY; TAKING A NATION
"OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND
FOR THE PEOPLE" AND TWISTING IT INTO
A NATION "OF THE CORPORATIONS, BY
THE CORPORATIONS AND FOR
THE CORPORATIONS."

BUT HE DIDN'T STAY
PEACEFUL FOR LONG. HIS
GOALS MAY BE NOBLE,
BUT HIS MEANS...



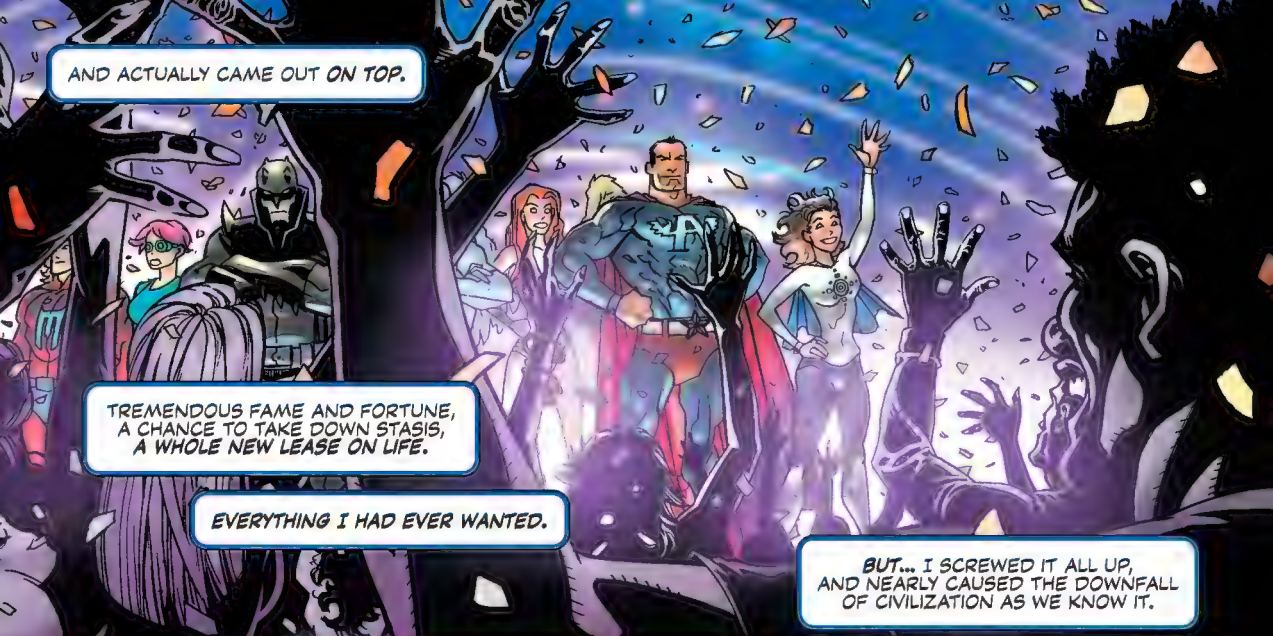
...SUCK.

AND I THOUGHT-- HOPED-- THAT BY WINNING
SUPERHERO IDOL AND JOINING THE PROTECTORS
I COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM TO TAKE
HIM DOWN ONCE AND FOR ALL.

SO, I AUDITIONED.

AND I BATTLED
MY WAY INTO THE
TOP TEN.





AND ACTUALLY CAME OUT ON TOP.

TREMENDOUS FAME AND FORTUNE,
A CHANCE TO TAKE DOWN STASIS,
A WHOLE NEW LEASE ON LIFE.

EVERYTHING I HAD EVER WANTED.

BUT... I SCREWED IT ALL UP,
AND NEARLY CAUSED THE DOWNFALL
OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT.



MY NAME IS LESLIE, AKA "Joule."
THIS IS MY STORY.

THE STORY OF HOW I **DESTROYED** MY
LIFE AND ALMOST LOST EVERYTHING.
THE STORY OF HOW I NEARLY GOT THE
ENTIRE TEAM OF POWERED PROTECTORS
KILLED.

A STORY ABOUT HOW **HORRIBLY**
WRONG EVERYTHING CAN
GO WHEN YOU BECOME...

Idolized

JOIN US IN ONE MONTH FOR IDOLIZED #1!



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MICHAEL GUNNELL
DAVID CUIRIL

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...A SUPERSTAR!

#1

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ARTHUR
ADAMS
PLOT



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MICAH GUNNELL
DAVID CUIRIL

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#1

COVER B

Vol. 1

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Don't Stop
Deceiving

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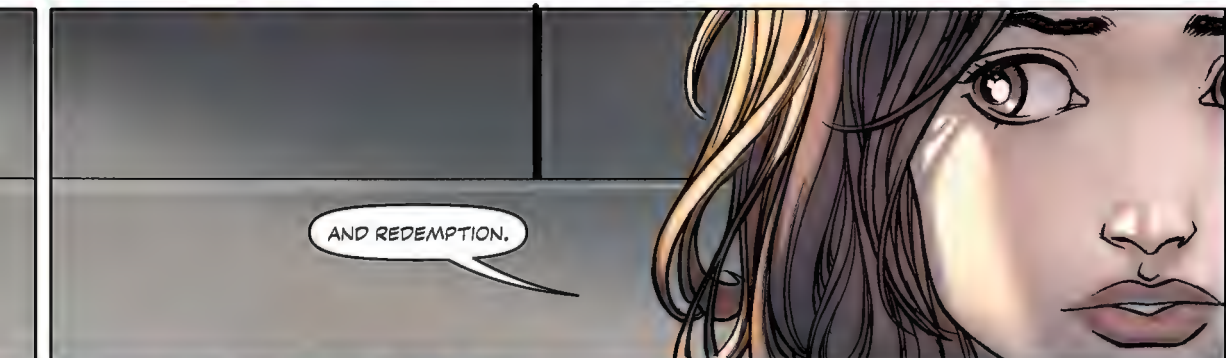
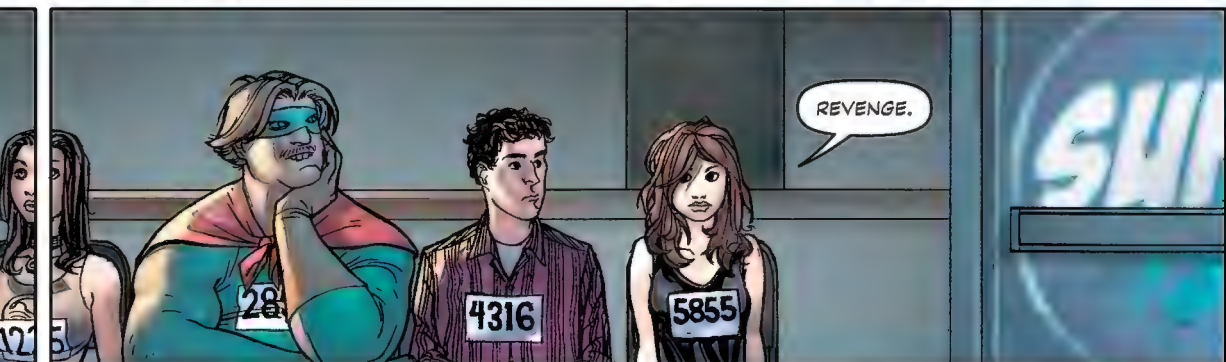
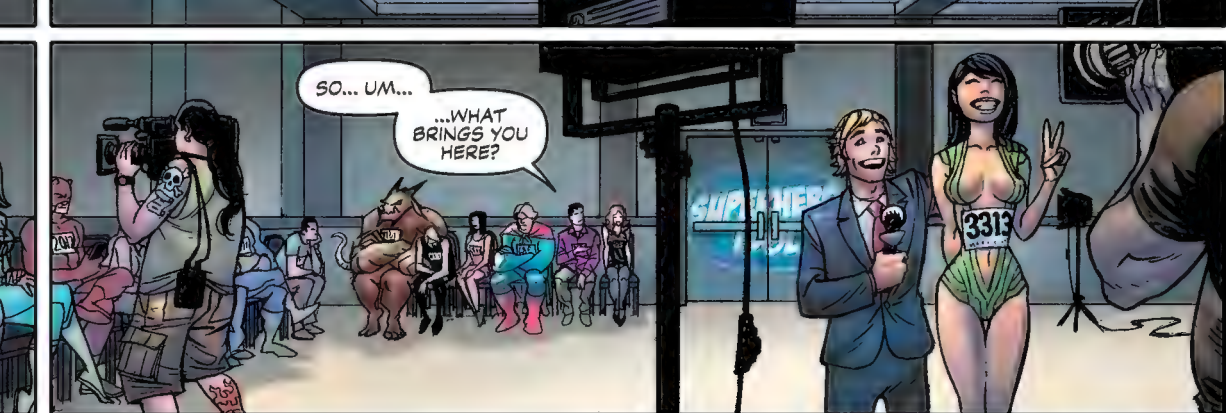
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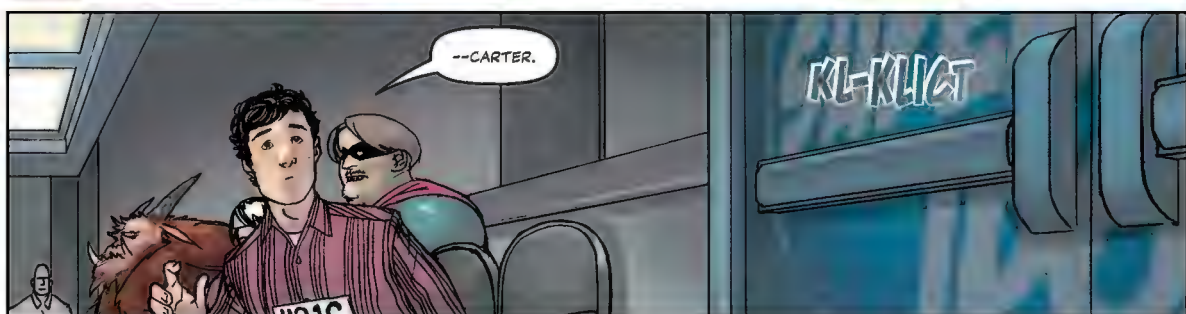
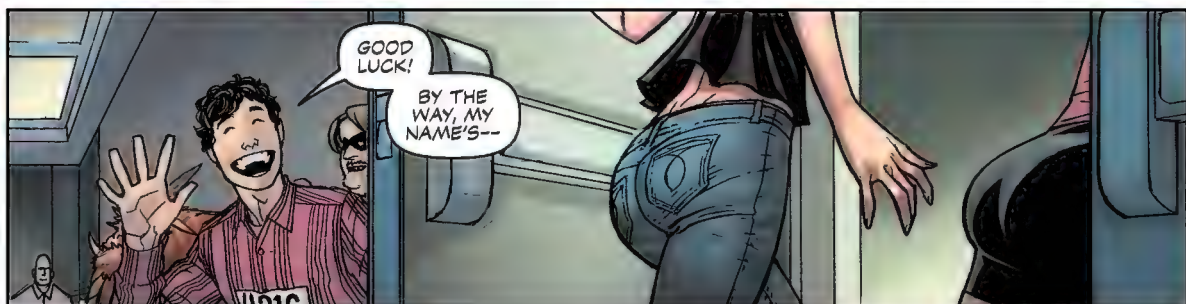
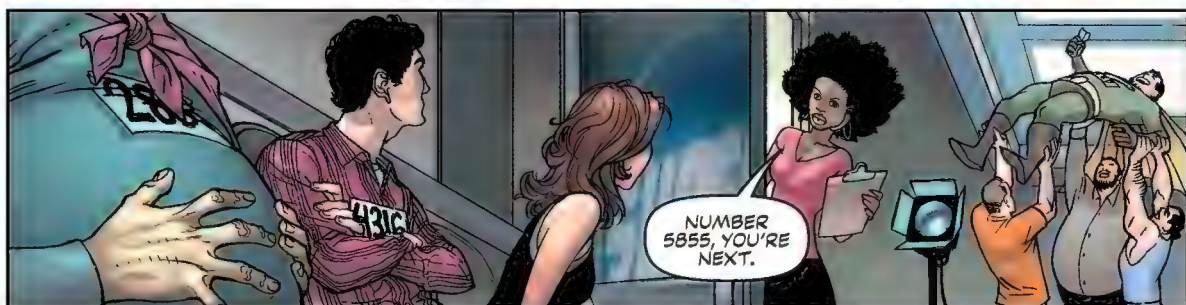
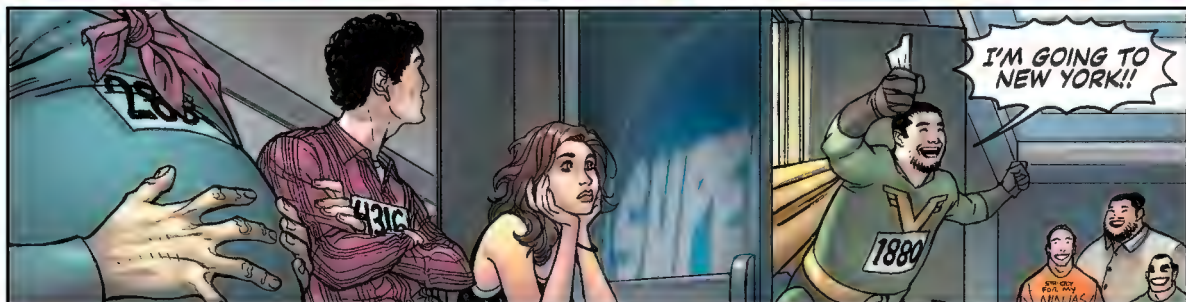
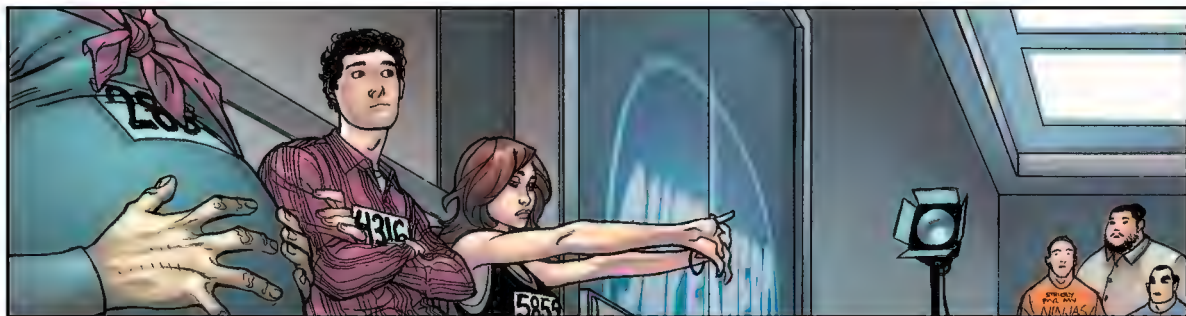
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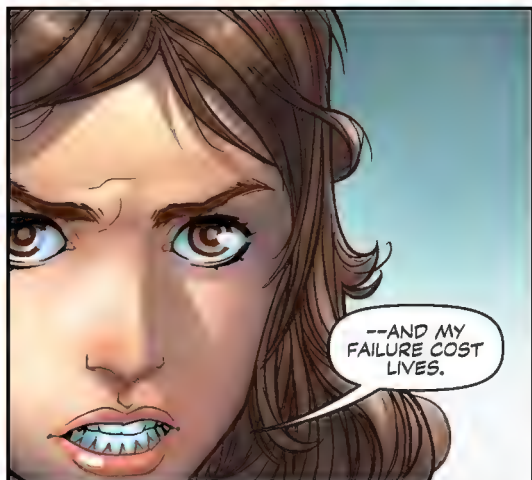
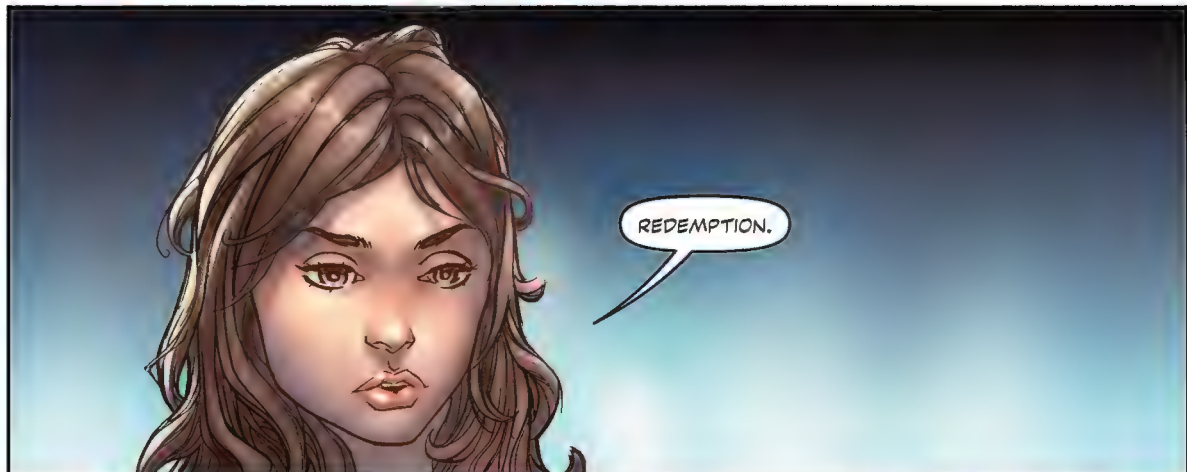
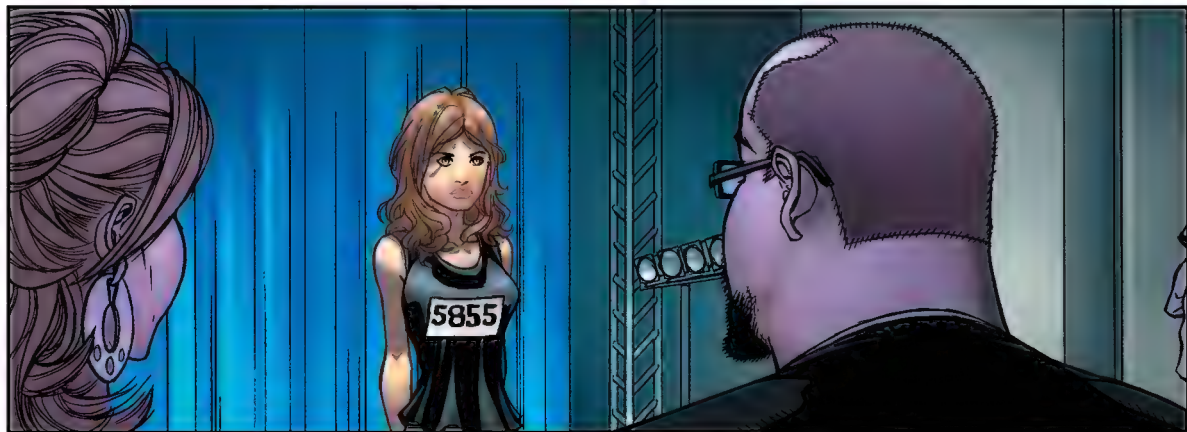
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SEE,
LIVING IN A
WORLD FILLED
WITH SUPER-
HEROES SEEMS
LIKE IT SHOULD
BE AMAZINGLY
COOL.



TO HAVE ALL OF
THESE LARGER-THAN-
LIFE, SWASHBUCKLING
DAREDEVILS FLYING
AROUND, DISPLAYING
UNBELIEVABLE POWERS,
RESCUING PEOPLE,
SAVING THE WORLD.



WHEN YOU
SEE THEM ON TV,
OR IN A MOVIE, OR
EVEN IN THE COMIC
BOOKS, IT ALL SEEMS
SO EXCITING, AND
ADVENTUROUS,
AND FUN.



BUT,
IN REAL
LIFE?



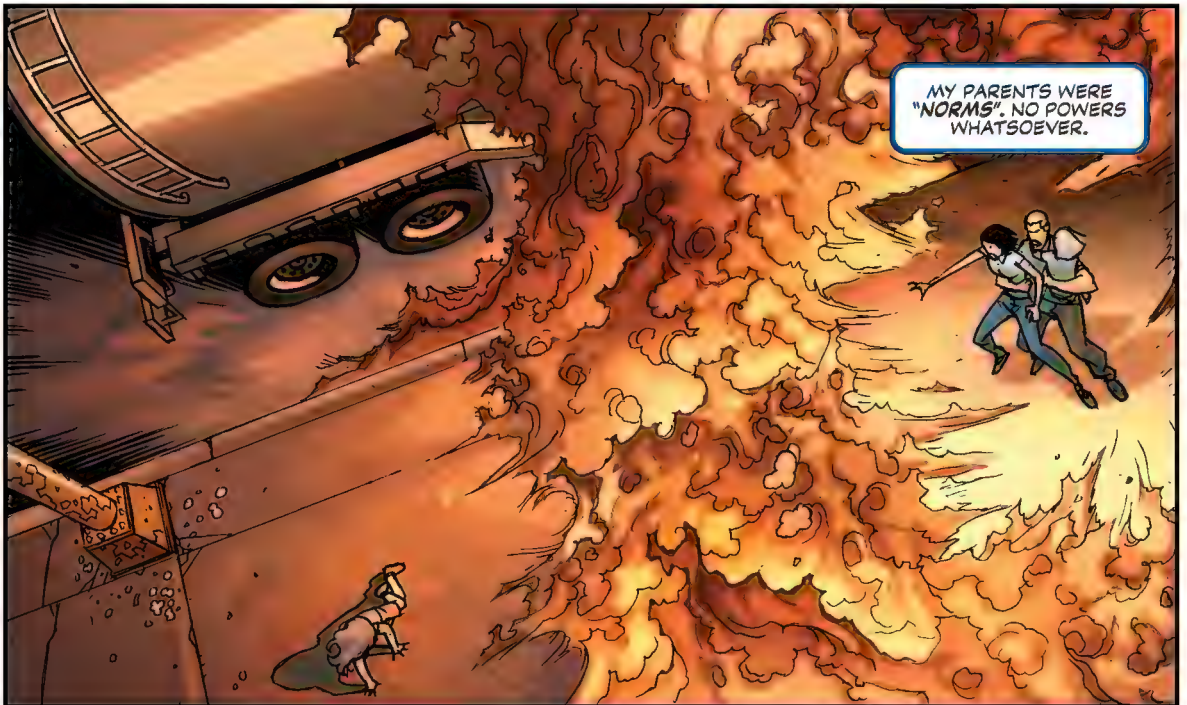
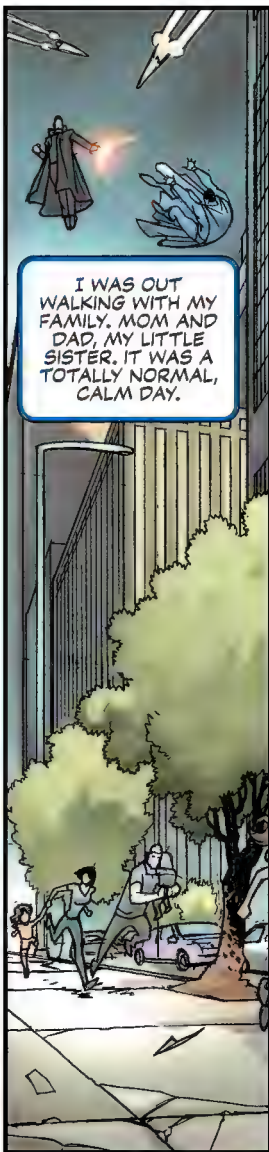




LIVING IN A WORLD FILLED WITH
SUPERHEROES MEANS YOU'RE
LIVING IN CONSTANT FEAR OF
DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

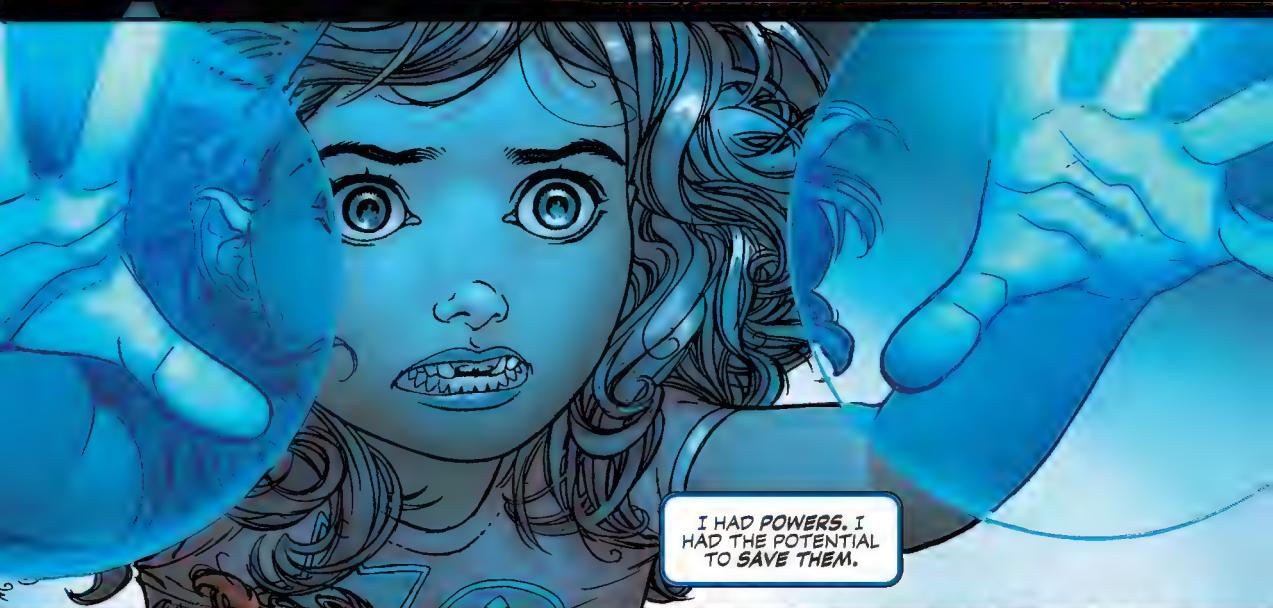
NOWHERE IS EVER TRULY SAFE. NO
ONE CAN EVER BE TRULY SECURE. A
MASSIVE, DANGEROUS BATTLE COULD
BREAK OUT AT ANY PLACE, ANY TIME.

IT'S LIKE LIVING IN A TERRORIST
STATE. LIKE THE ENTIRE WORLD
IS UNDER SIEGE, AND YOU NEVER
KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BE EATING
DINNER AND A SUICIDE BOMBER
WILL EXPLODE NEXT TO YOU.





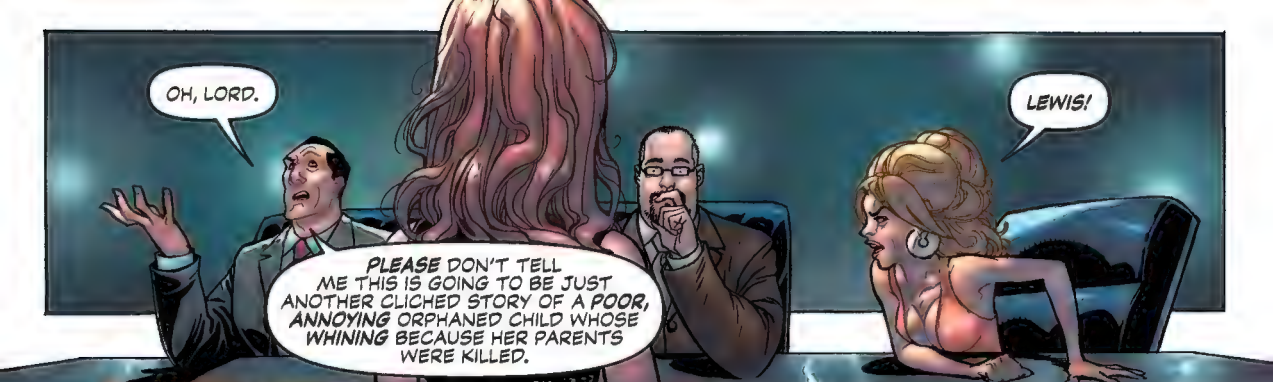
THEY DIDN'T
KNOW IT, BUT
ME? I WAS
DIFFERENT.



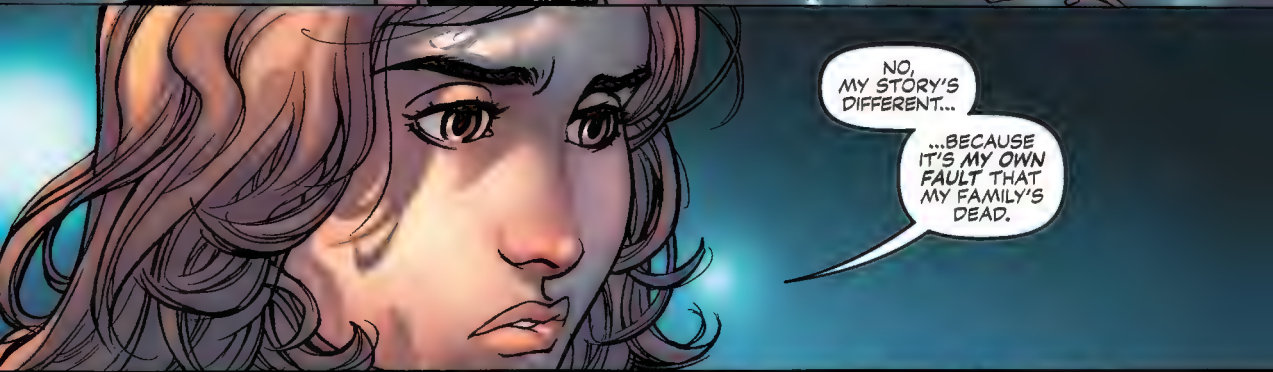
I HAD POWERS. I
HAD THE POTENTIAL
TO SAVE THEM.



BUT I FAILED.

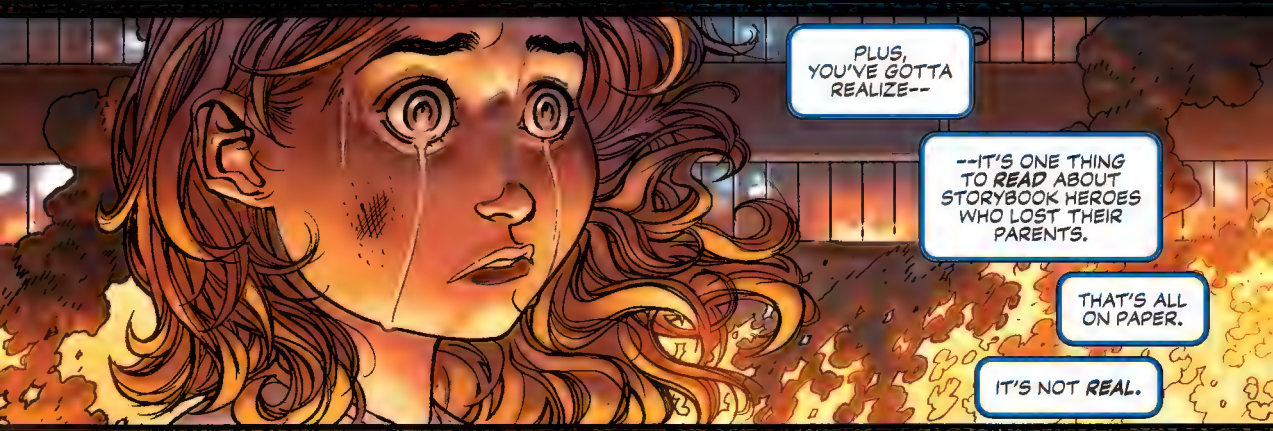


PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THIS IS GOING TO BE JUST ANOTHER CLICHÉD STORY OF A POOR, ANNOYING ORPHANED CHILD WHOSE WHINING BECAUSE HER PARENTS WERE KILLED.



NO, MY STORY'S DIFFERENT...

...BECAUSE IT'S MY OWN FAULT THAT MY FAMILY'S DEAD.



PLUS, YOU'VE GOTTA REALIZE--

--IT'S ONE THING TO READ ABOUT STORYBOOK HEROES WHO LOST THEIR PARENTS.

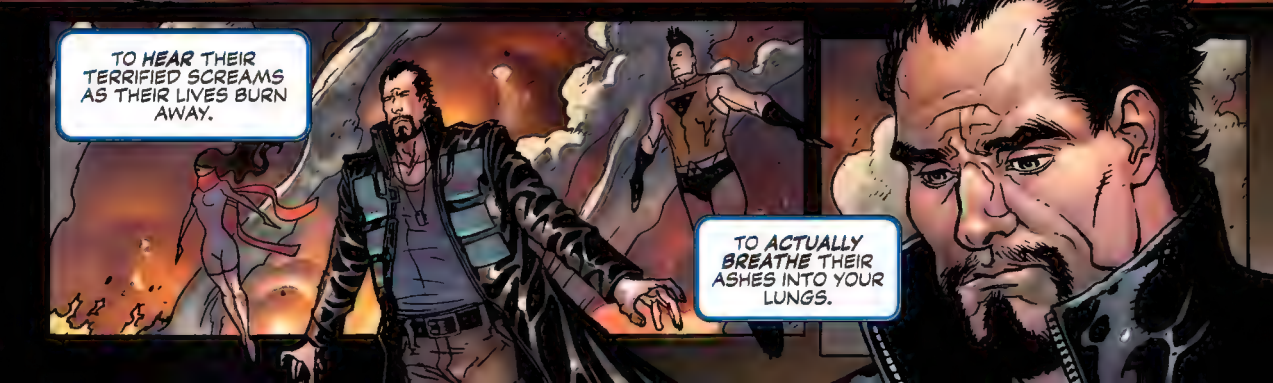
THAT'S ALL ON PAPER.

IT'S NOT REAL.



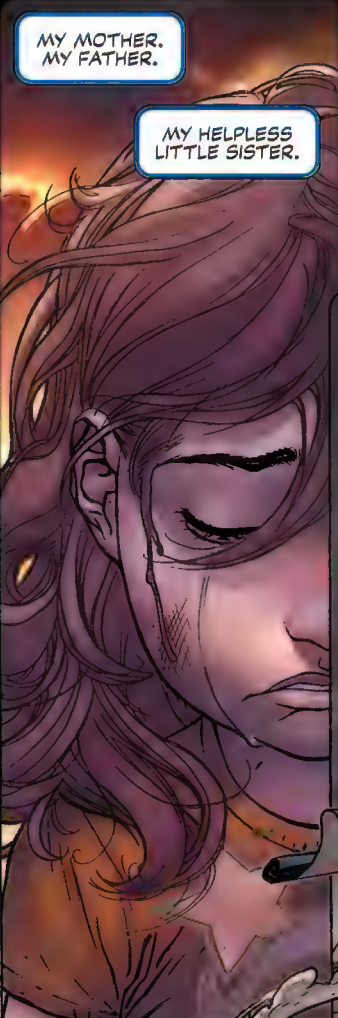
IT'S ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY TO ACTUALLY LIVE THROUGH IT.

TO SMELL THEIR FLESH AS IT BURNS BEFORE YOUR EYES.



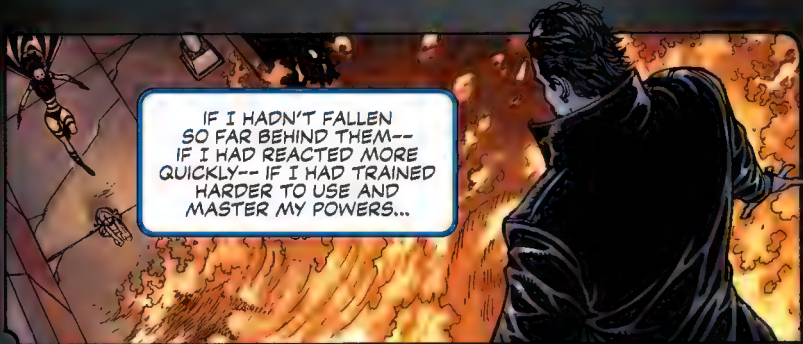
TO HEAR THEIR TERRIFIED SCREAMS AS THEIR LIVES BURN AWAY.

TO ACTUALLY BREATHE THEIR ASHES INTO YOUR LUNGS.



MY MOTHER.
MY FATHER.

MY HELPLESS
LITTLE SISTER.



IF I HADN'T FALLEN
SO FAR BEHIND THEM--
IF I HAD REACTED MORE
QUICKLY-- IF I HAD TRAINED
HARDER TO USE AND
MASTER MY POWERS...

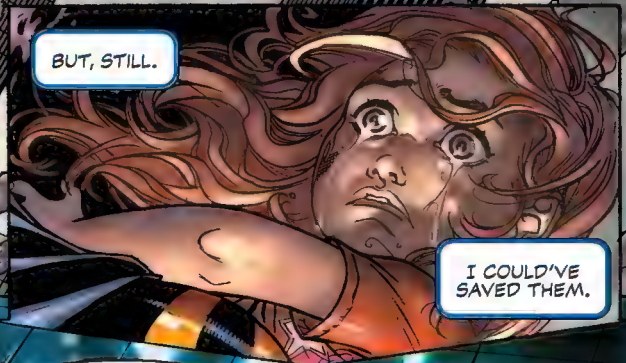


...I COULD'VE
SAVED THEM.



I KNOW, I KNOW, I WAS
ONLY SEVEN YEARS OLD,
JUST A SCARED LITTLE
KID. JUST STARTING TO
DISCOVER MY ABILITIES
AND ALL.

I'VE HEARD
IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN
FROM MY GRANDPARENTS,
FROM SOCIAL WORKERS
AND THERAPISTS.



BUT, STILL.

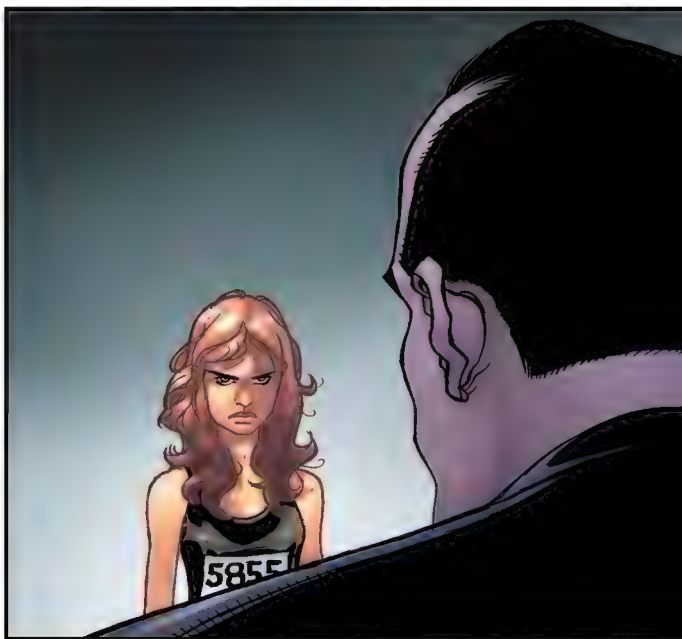
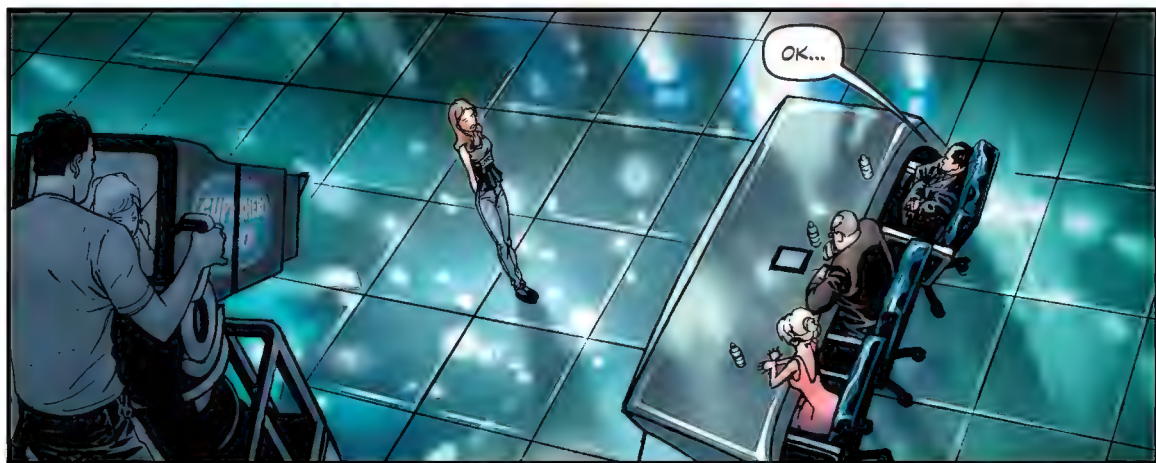
I COULD'VE
SAVED THEM.



AND I THINK
ABOUT IT EVERY
SECOND OF
EVERY DAY.

AND
I BURN
INSIDE.

AND I'LL
NEVER FORGIVE
MYSELF.





I'VE SPENT
THE LAST DECADE
WORKING MADLY TO
BECOME A SUPER-
HERO.

I NEED TO ATONE FOR
MY FAILURE-- TO SAVE
OTHER LIVES IN ORDER
TO MAKE UP FOR THE
LIVES I LET SLIP AWAY.

TO PROVE MYSELF.

EVERY NIGHT, I'VE
SECRETLY SPENT HOURS
HONING MY POWERS.

LEARNING TO
CONTROL THEM. TO
HOPEFULLY MASTER
THEM.

TO UNLOCK THE
HIDDEN SECRETS
OF WHAT I'M TRULY
CAPABLE OF.



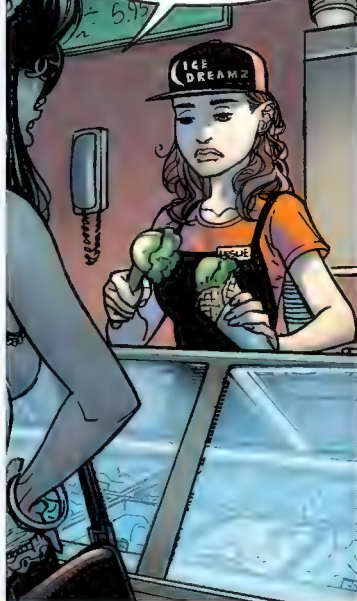
GAINING SPEED,
STRENGTH, AGILITY,
AND BALANCE.

SHARPENING MY
MIND, SOAKING UP
INFORMATION.

WORKING ONE
DEAD-END JOB AFTER
THE NEXT, JUST MAKING
ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY
FOR MY TRAINING.



I SAID
**CHOCOLATE
SPRINKLES**, NOT
RAINBOW SPRINKLES,
YOU IDIOT! NOW,
START OVER!



I'D LIKE
TO HAVE A
MASSIVE
MEAT.

YEAH,
I BET YOU
WOULD.

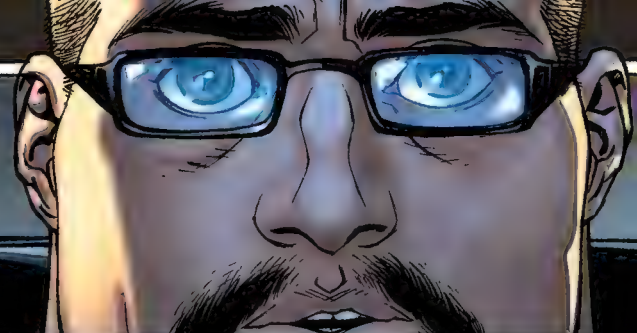
EXCUSE
ME?!!

OH, NOTHING.
NEVER MIND. ONE
MASSIVE MEAT.
AND...?



I'VE GOTTEN
GOOD-- REALLY
GOOD.





SO TRAINING,
WORK... AND
SCHOOL?

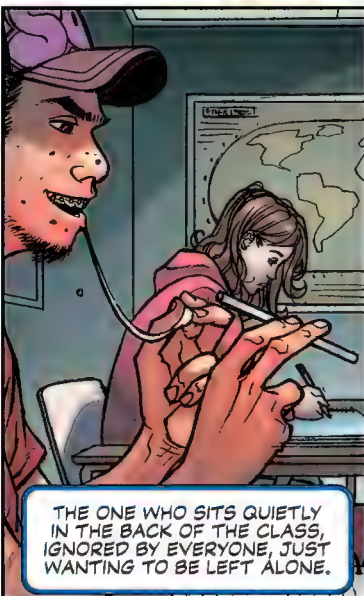
YES, UNFORTUNATELY.



THEY SAY THAT TIME
HEALS ALL WOUNDS.

NOT FOR
ME.

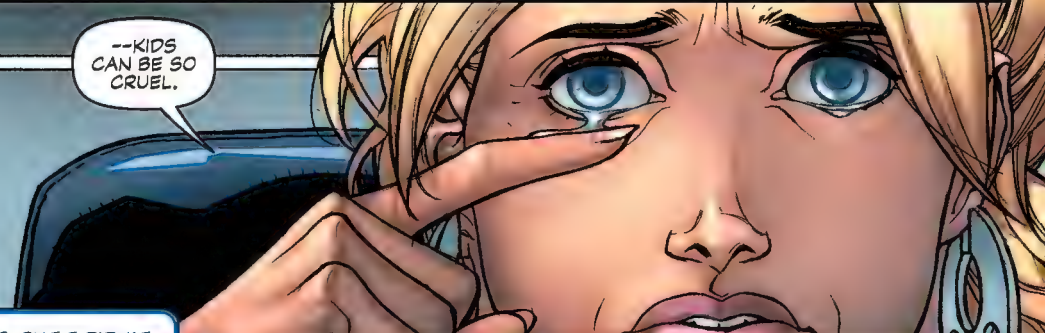
I'D GROWN INTO
THAT GIRL WHO EVERYONE
LOOKS AT FUNNY WHEN
SHE WALKS DOWN THE
HALLS.



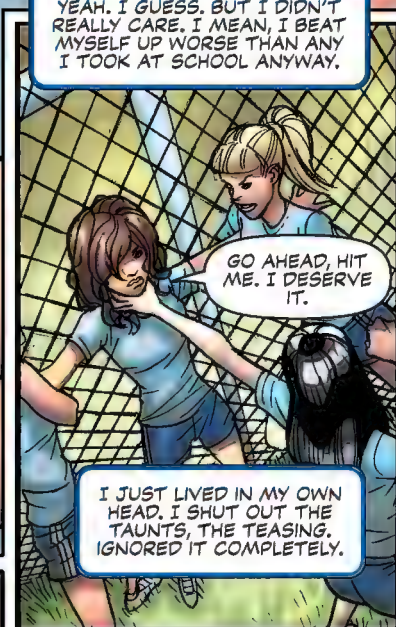
THE ONE WHO SITS QUIETLY
IN THE BACK OF THE CLASS,
IGNORED BY EVERYONE, JUST
WANTING TO BE LEFT ALONE.



AND, WHEN I
WASN'T BEING
IGNORED, I WAS
BEING RIDICULED,
BEATEN UP--



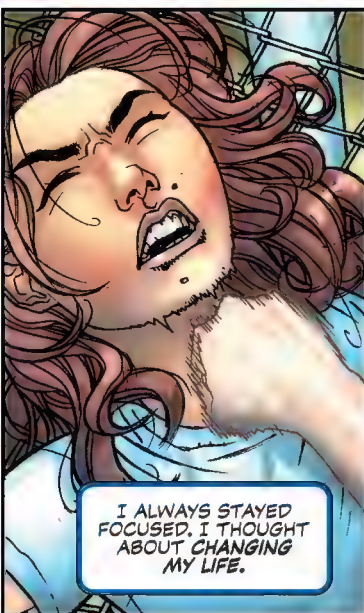
--KIDS
CAN BE SO
CRUEL.



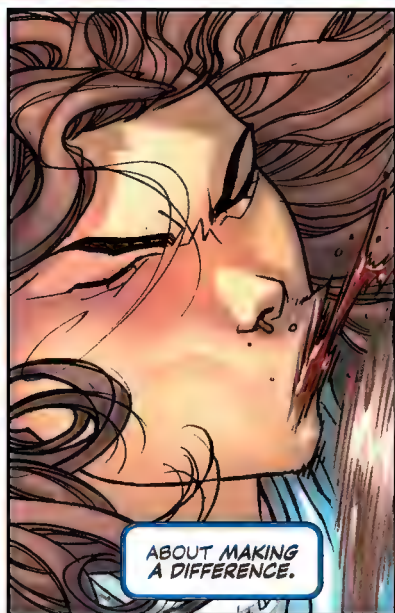
YEAH. I GUESS. BUT I DIDN'T
REALLY CARE. I MEAN, I BEAT
MYSELF UP WORSE THAN ANY
I TOOK AT SCHOOL ANYWAY.

GO AHEAD, HIT
ME. I DESERVE
IT.

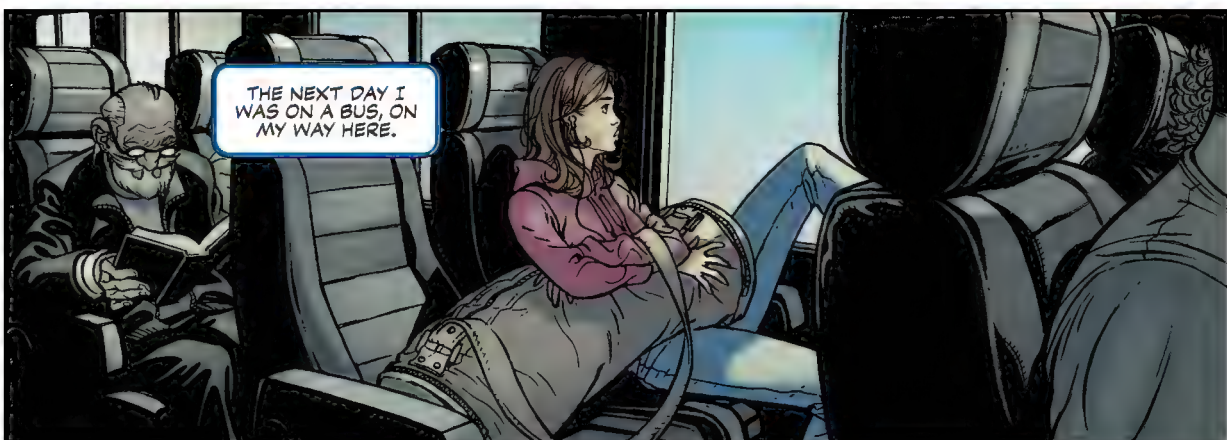
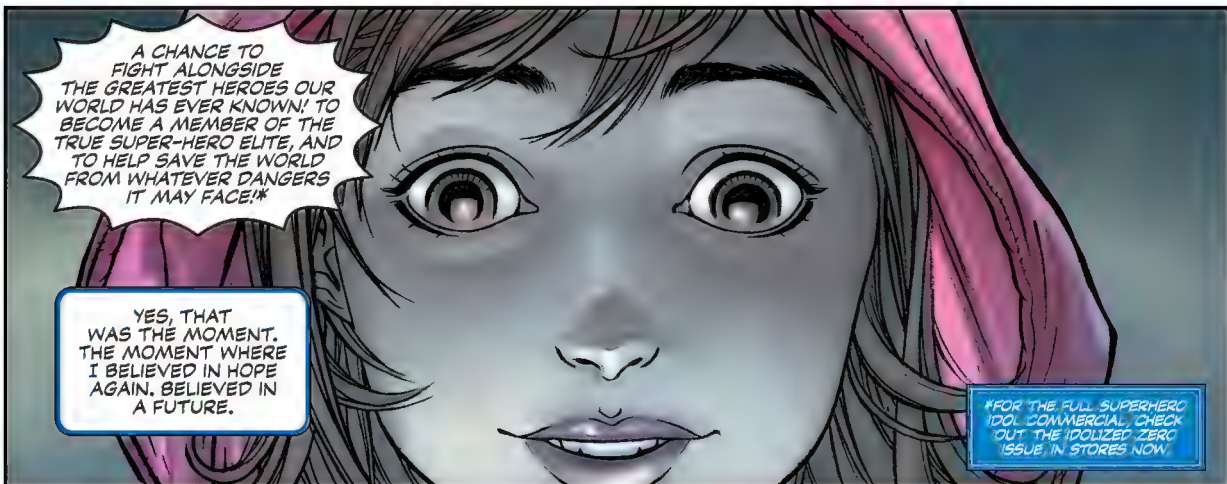
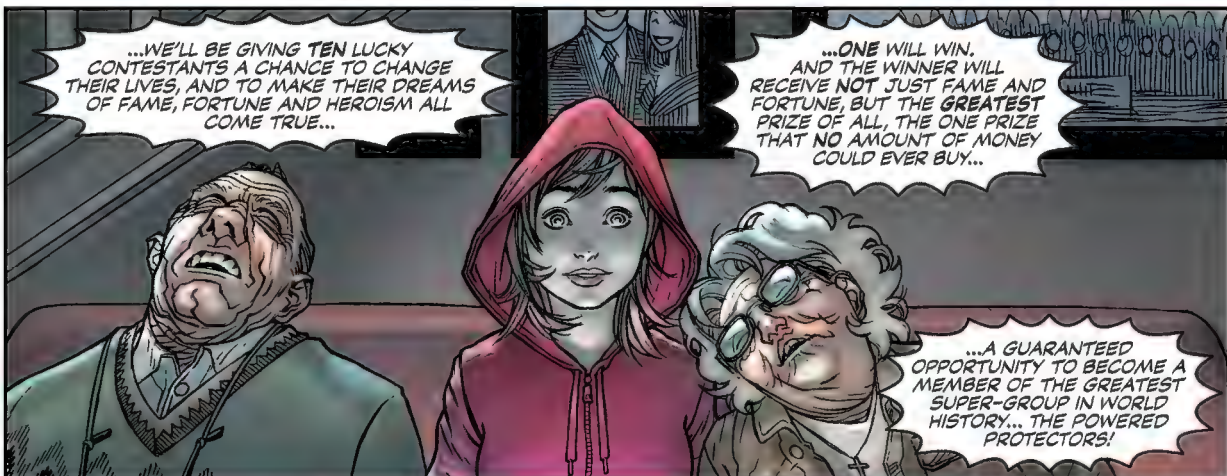
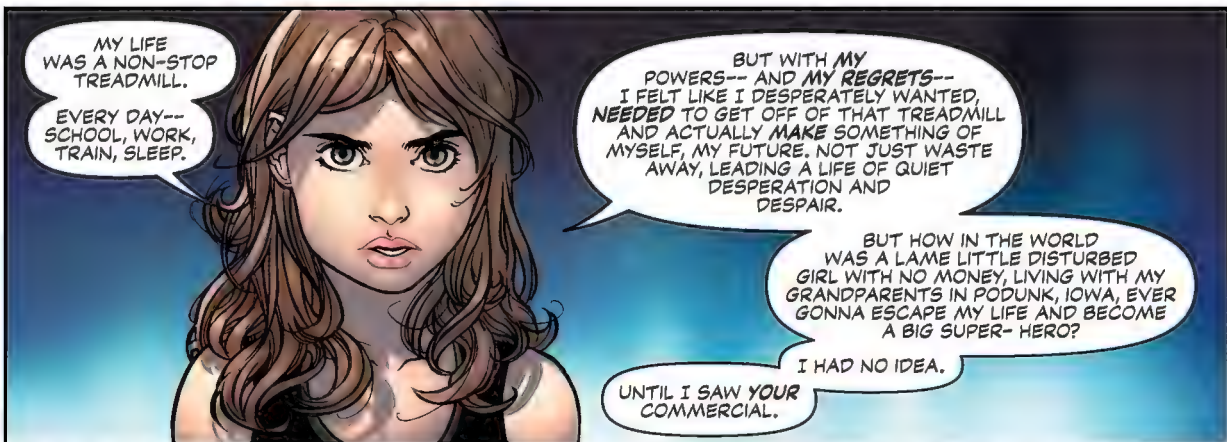
I JUST LIVED IN MY OWN
HEAD. I SHUT OUT THE
TAUNTS, THE TEASING.
IGNORED IT COMPLETELY.

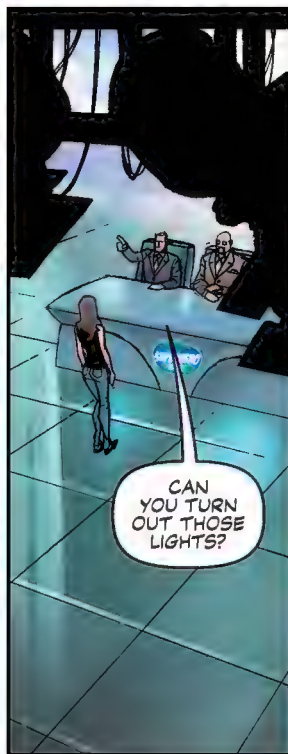
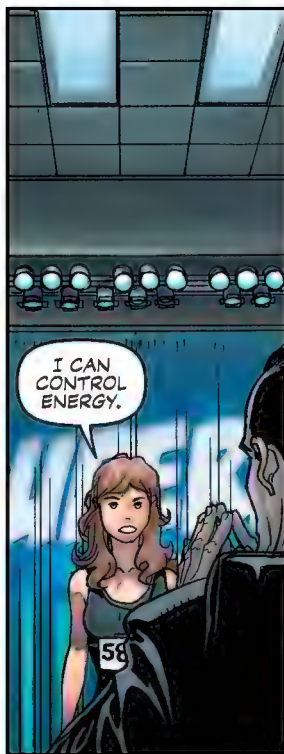


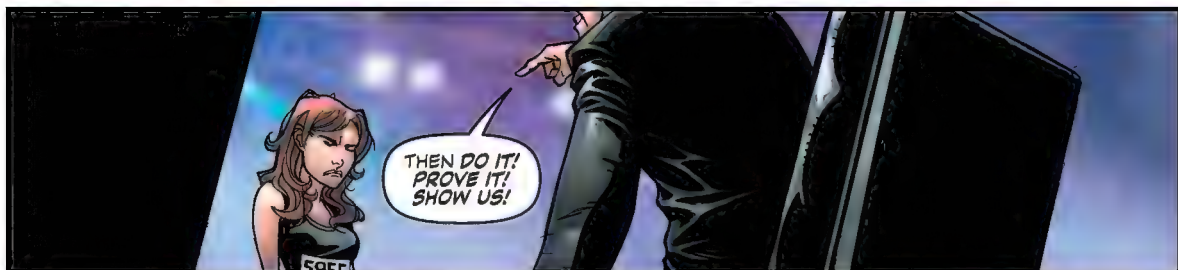
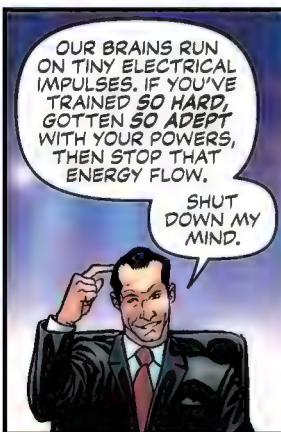
I ALWAYS STAYED
FOCUSED. I THOUGHT
ABOUT CHANGING
MY LIFE.



ABOUT MAKING
A DIFFERENCE.











THEY BOUGHT IT.
THE REDEMPTION
ANGLE WORKED.

AND NOW
I'M ONE STEP
CLOSER TO MY
REVENGE.



REVENGE AGAINST HIM.

HE'S CONSTANTLY
BATTLING THE POWERED
PROTECTORS.

IF I CAN JUST WIN
THIS COMPETITION AND
JOIN THEM, THEN I'LL HAVE
MY SHOT AT MAKING HIM PAY,
AT **DESTROYING** HIS LIFE THE
WAY HE **DESTROYED** MINE.

AND THIS TIME...



...I WON'T FAIL.

END ISSUE ONE.



DAVID SCHWARTZ
MIKAH GUNNELL
PASQUALE QUILANO
DAVID CUIRIEL

BE A STAR...

...A SUPERSTAR!

#2
COVER A

VOL. 1



RAMOS
12



DAVID SCHWARTZ
MICAH GUNNELL
PASQUALE QUALANO
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BE A STAR...

...A SUPERSTAR!

#2
COVER B

VOL. 1

Idolized



blitz

CREATED BY DAVID SCHWARTZ

DAVID SCHWARTZ

WRITER www.davidbschwartz.net

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& PASQUALE QUALANO
PENCILERS

DAVID CURIEL

COLORIST

JOSH REED
LETTERER

VINCE HERNANDEZ
EDITOR



COVERS by

A: FOUND GUTS: LARRY PENCILS & INKS
GUTS: STEVE WOOD COLORS

B: THE VAMPIRE: MICHAEL SCHWARTZ COVER PHOTO
MICHAEL SCHWARTZ COVER MODEL
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DINO: MICHAEL SCHWARTZ SPECIAL EFFECTS

C: THE WITCH: LARRY PENCILS & INKS

No Sleep
'Till
Top Ten

MANUSCRIPT BY TERRY L. ROSS AND



THIS IS HOW
IT ENDS.

I'M JOULE.

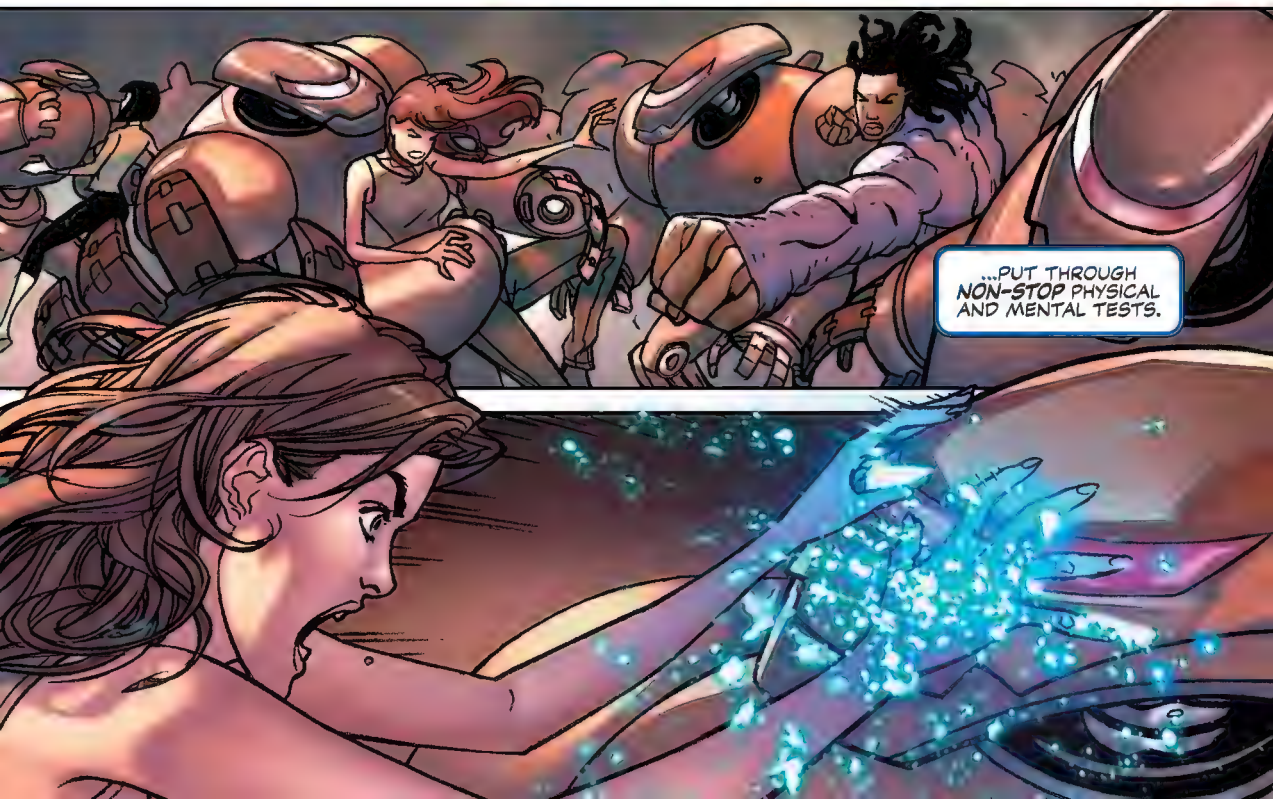
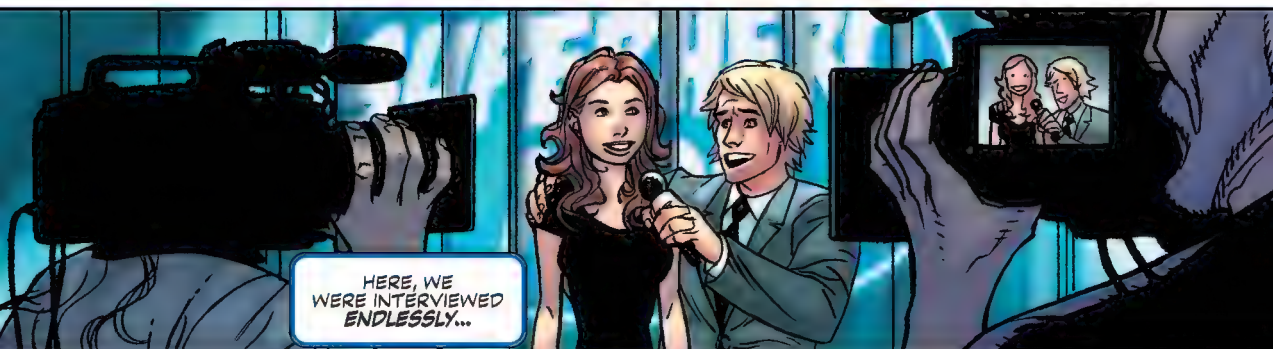
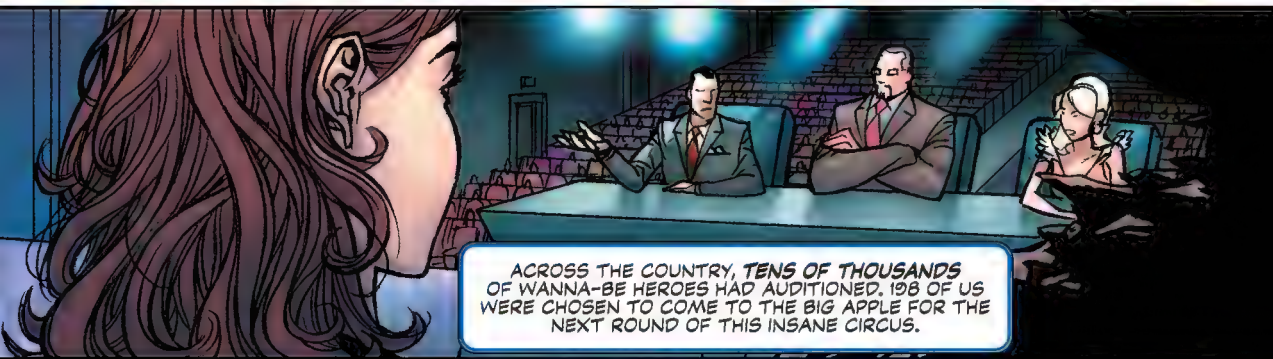
I'M A **SUPERHERO**.
A COMPETITOR ON
THE FIRST SEASON
OF "SUPERHERO
IDOL."

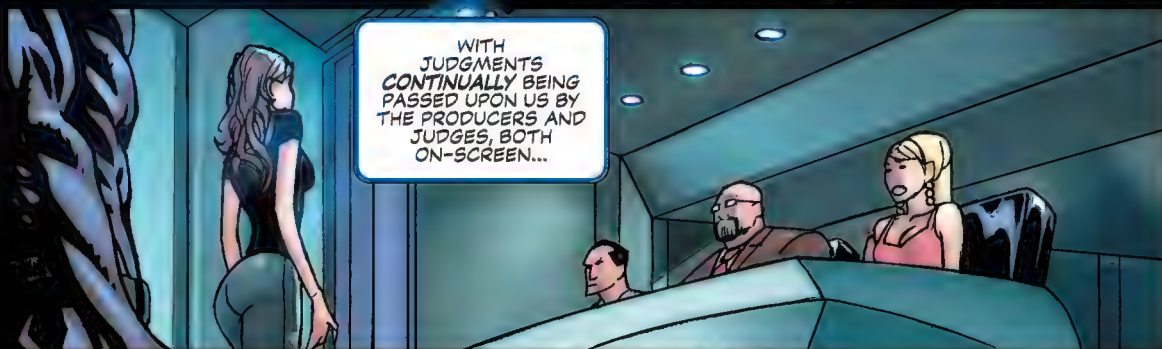
AND, I THINK I'M
ABOUT TO DIE.

THIS IS MY STORY.
THE STORY OF HOW I
BECAME IDOLIZED, HAD
THE WORLD AT MY FEET,
AND THEN COMPLETELY
SCREWED IT ALL UP.

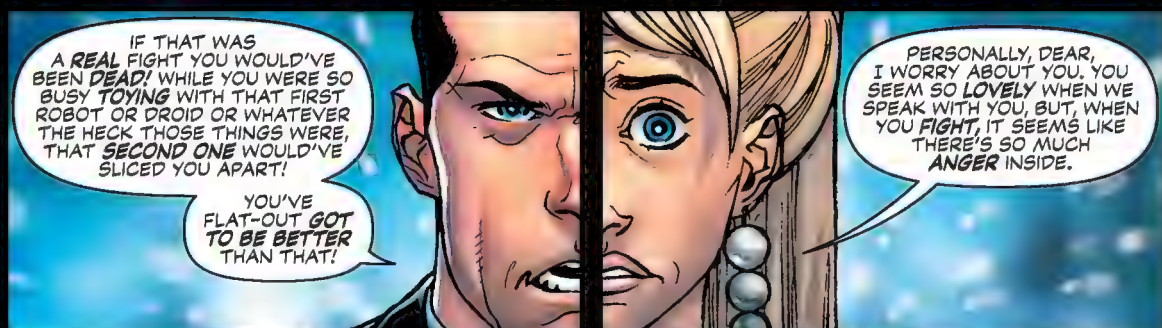
HARD TO BELIEVE THAT JUST
FOUR MONTHS AGO I WAS IN NEW
YORK CITY, **SUPERHERO CAPITOL
OF THE WORLD**, STANDING ON THE
SET OF THE TV SHOW...







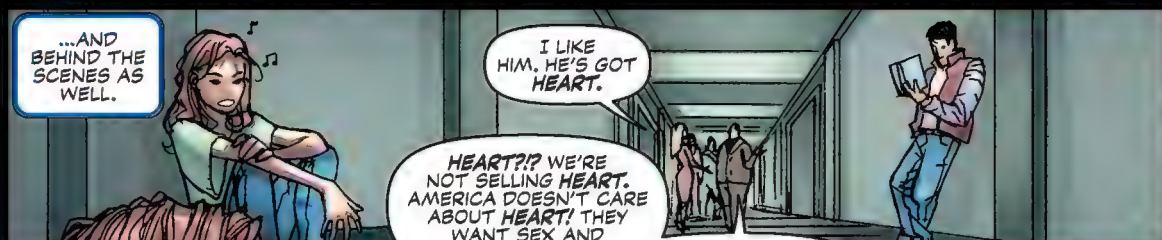
WITH JUDGMENTS CONTINUALLY BEING PASSED UPON US BY THE PRODUCERS AND JUDGES, BOTH ON-SCREEN...



IF THAT WAS A REAL FIGHT YOU WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD! WHILE YOU WERE SO BUSY TOYING WITH THAT FIRST ROBOT OR DROID OR WHATEVER THE HECK THOSE THINGS WERE, THAT SECOND ONE WOULD'VE SLICED YOU APART!

YOU'VE FLAT-OUT GOT TO BE BETTER THAN THAT!

PERSONALLY, DEAR, I WORRY ABOUT YOU. YOU SEEM SO LOVELY WHEN WE SPEAK WITH YOU, BUT, WHEN YOU FIGHT, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SO MUCH ANGER INSIDE.

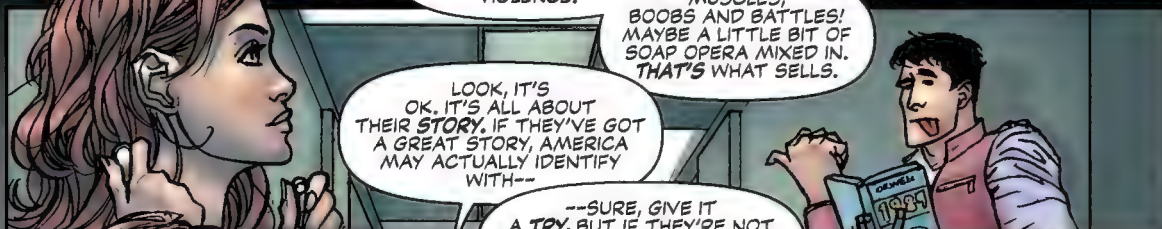


...AND BEHIND THE SCENES AS WELL.

I LIKE HIM. HE'S GOT HEART.

HEART?? WE'RE NOT SELLING HEART. AMERICA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HEART! THEY WANT SEX AND VIOLENCE.

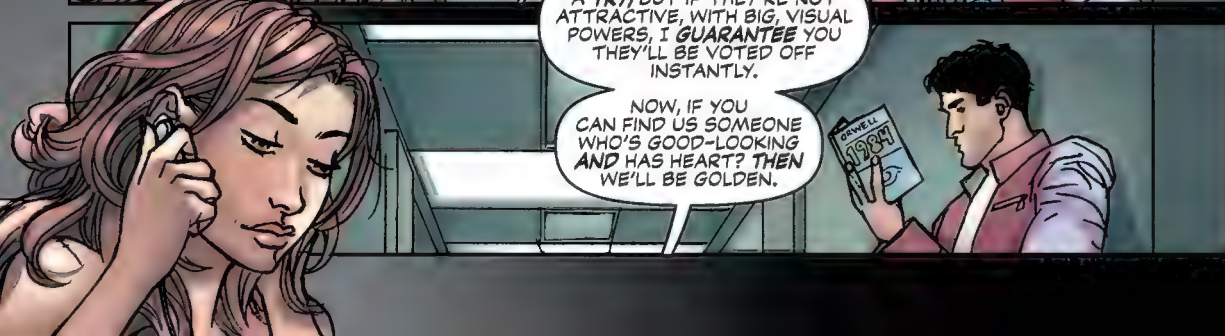
MUSCLES, BOOBS AND BATTLES! MAYBE A LITTLE BIT OF SOAP OPERA MIXED IN. THAT'S WHAT SELLS.



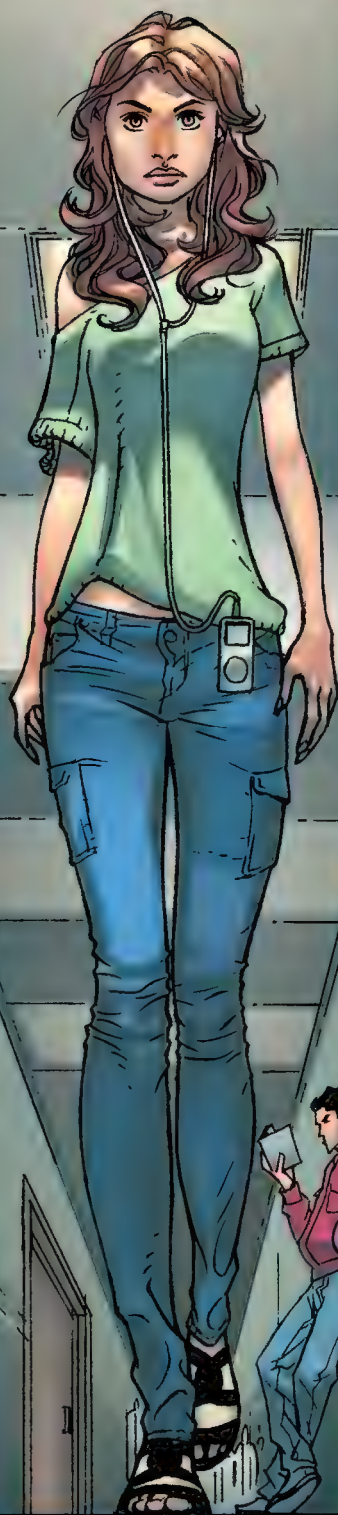
LOOK, IT'S OK. IT'S ALL ABOUT THEIR STORY. IF THEY'VE GOT A GREAT STORY, AMERICA MAY ACTUALLY IDENTIFY WITH--

--SURE, GIVE IT A TRY, BUT IF THEY'RE NOT ATTRACTIVE, WITH BIG, VISUAL POWERS, I GUARANTEE YOU THEY'LL BE VOTED OFF INSTANTLY.

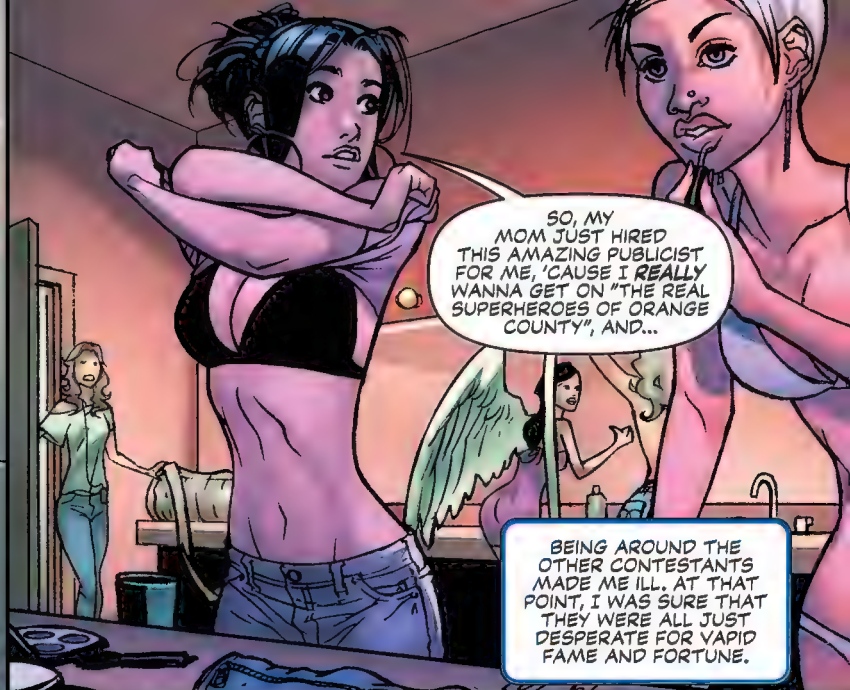
NOW, IF YOU CAN FIND US SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD-LOOKING AND HAS HEART? THEN WE'LL BE GOLDEN.



THE PRODUCERS WERE CONVINING AND CALCULATING, BUT THAT WAS NO SURPRISE. THAT'S THEIR JOB, AFTER ALL. TO CREATE RATINGS.



THIS MAY BE CALLED "REALITY" TV, BUT IT'S STILL JUST A SHOW. MANUFACTURED AND MANIPULATED FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE.



SO, MY MOM JUST HIRED THIS AMAZING PUBLICIST FOR ME, 'CAUSE I REALLY WANNA GET ON "THE REAL SUPERHEROES OF ORANGE COUNTY", AND...

BEING AROUND THE OTHER CONTESTANTS MADE ME ILL. AT THAT POINT, I WAS SURE THAT THEY WERE ALL JUST DESPERATE FOR VAPID FAME AND FORTUNE.



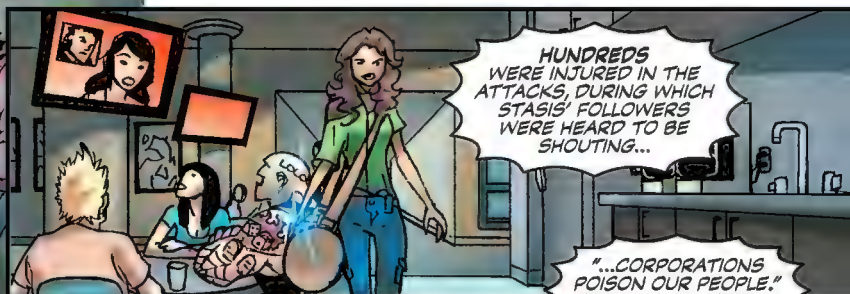
THAT NONE OF THEM HAD A GOOD, SOLID, NON-NARCISSISTIC REASON FOR BEING HERE, LIKE I THOUGHT I DID.

SO, I JUST KEPT TO MYSELF, AND KEPT WORKING.



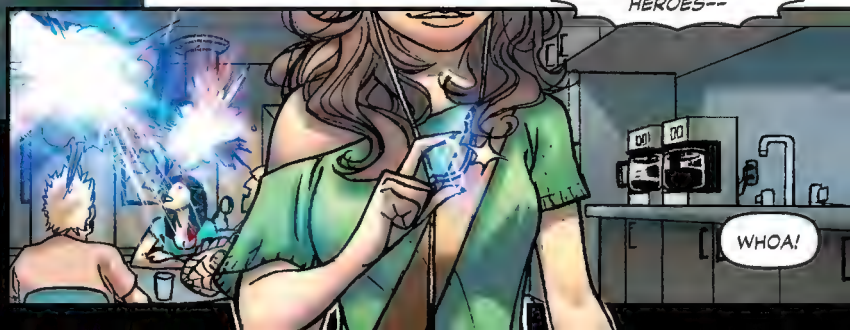
STAYING FOCUSED ON WHAT REALLY MATTERED.

TODAY, GROUPS OF STASIS' FOLLOWERS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY JOINED IN COORDINATED ATTACKS AGAINST MULTIPLE FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT CHAINS.



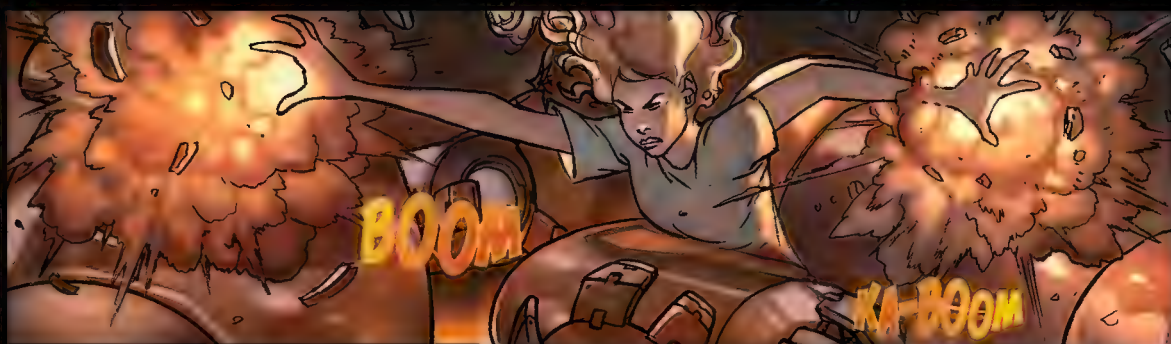
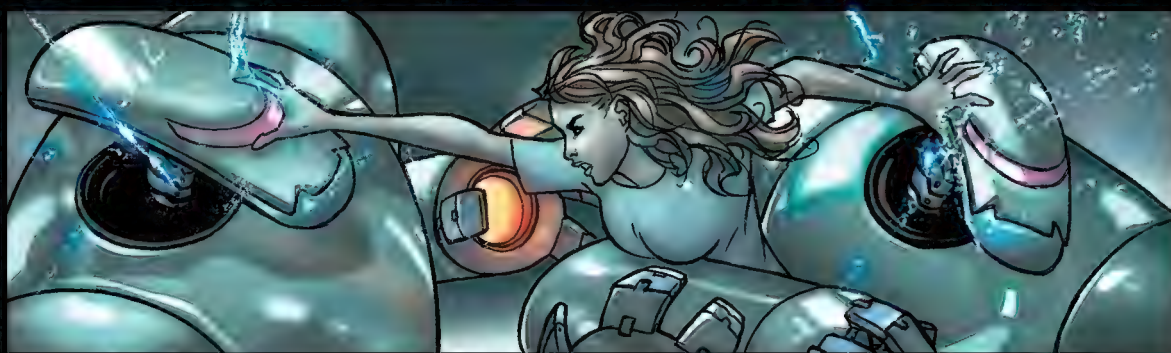
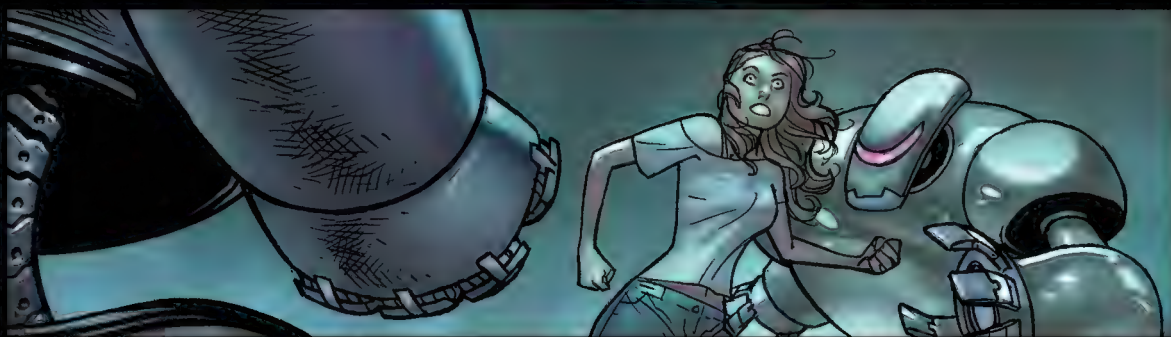
HUNDREDS WERE INJURED IN THE ATTACKS, DURING WHICH STASIS' FOLLOWERS WERE HEARD TO BE SHOUTING...

"...CORPORATIONS POISON OUR PEOPLE." POLICE AND VARIOUS HEROES--



WHOA!





THIS GUY SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO INTERRUPT SOMEONE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE.

I WANNA LASH OUT AT HIM, SCREAM AT HIM, BUT INSTEAD ALL I SAY IS...

EXCUSE ME?

IF I'D BEEN STARTLED AND REACTED ON PURE INSTINCT, I COULD'VE KILLED THE IDIOT.

YOU'RE WORKING YOURSELF LIKE THIS IS LIFE OR DEATH.

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE A REMINDER THAT IT'S JUST A GAME.

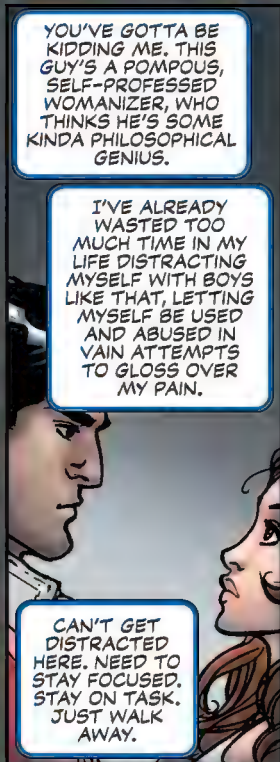
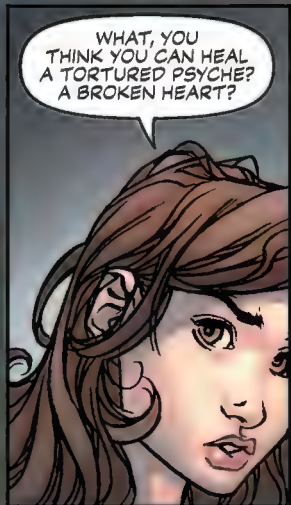
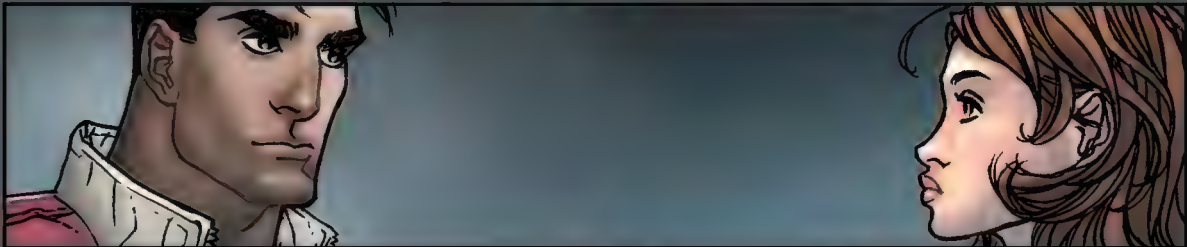
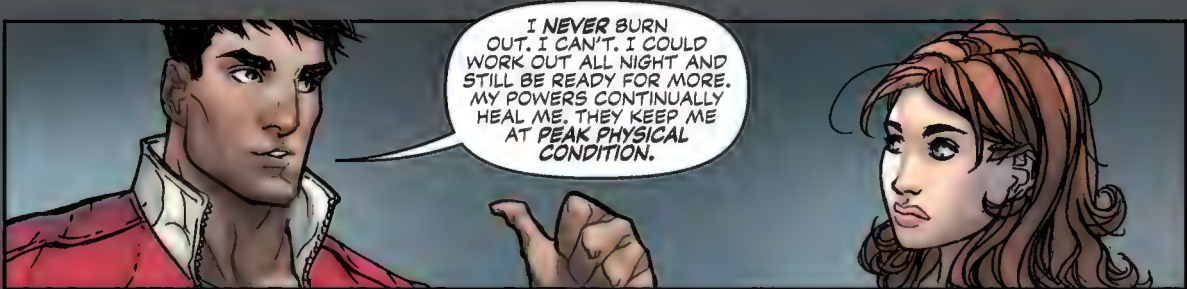
THE SHOW?

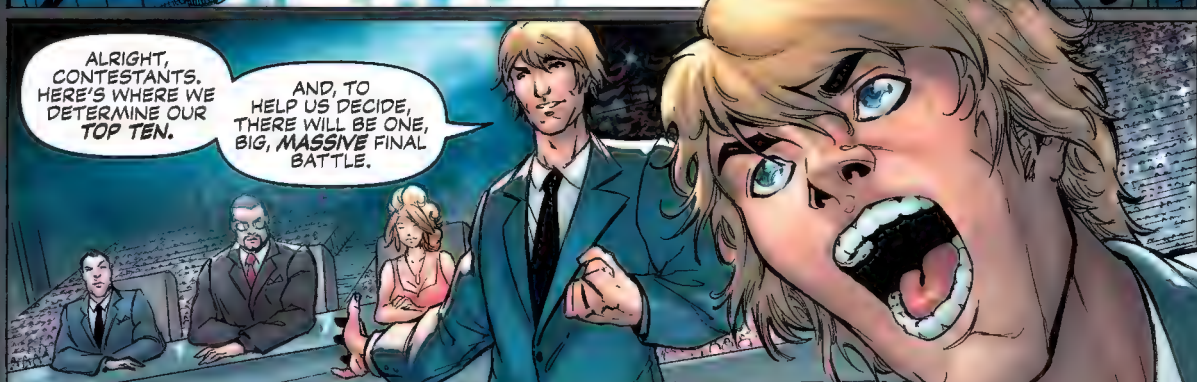
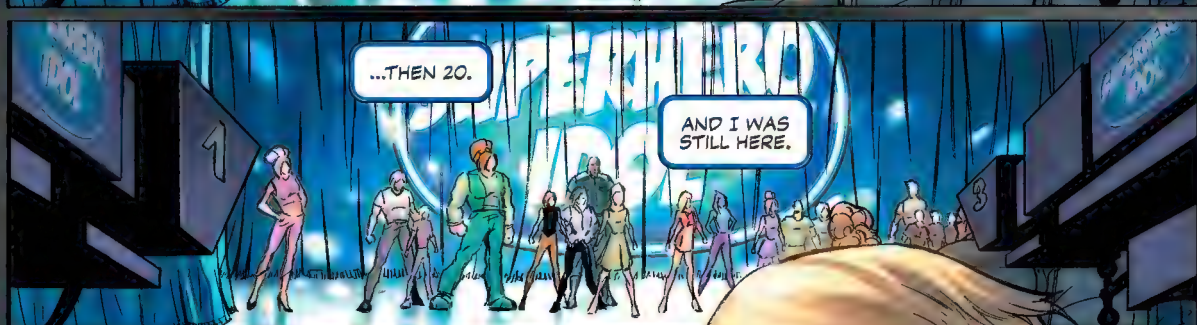
THE SHOW, THE WORLD, LIFE... EVERYTHING. ALL JUST SOMETHING TO BE PLAYED, AND ENJOYED, AND NEVER TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. ALL A GAME.

NOT FOR ME.

KEEP TAKING IT SO SERIOUSLY AND YOU'RE GOING TO BURN OUT.

SO, THEN WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, IN THE TRAINING ROOM, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

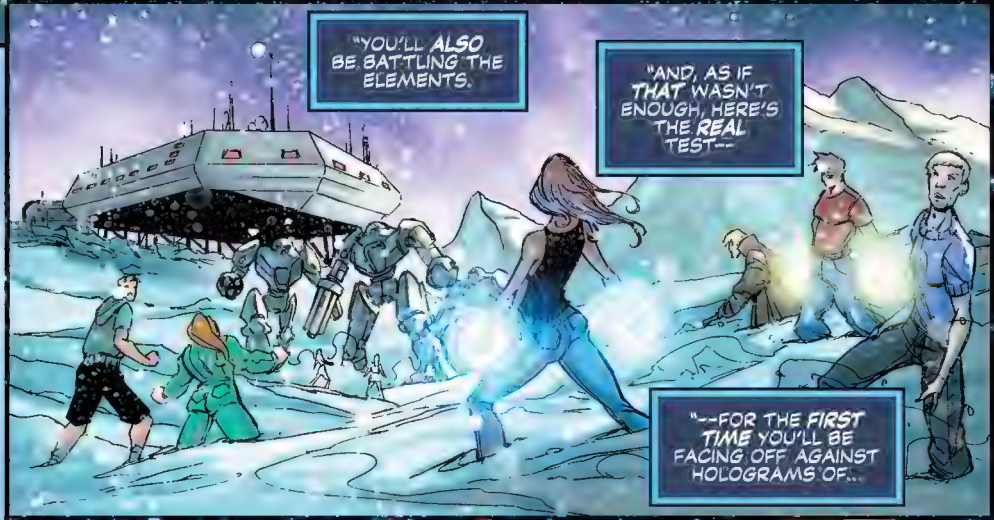




HOLOGRAM ON!



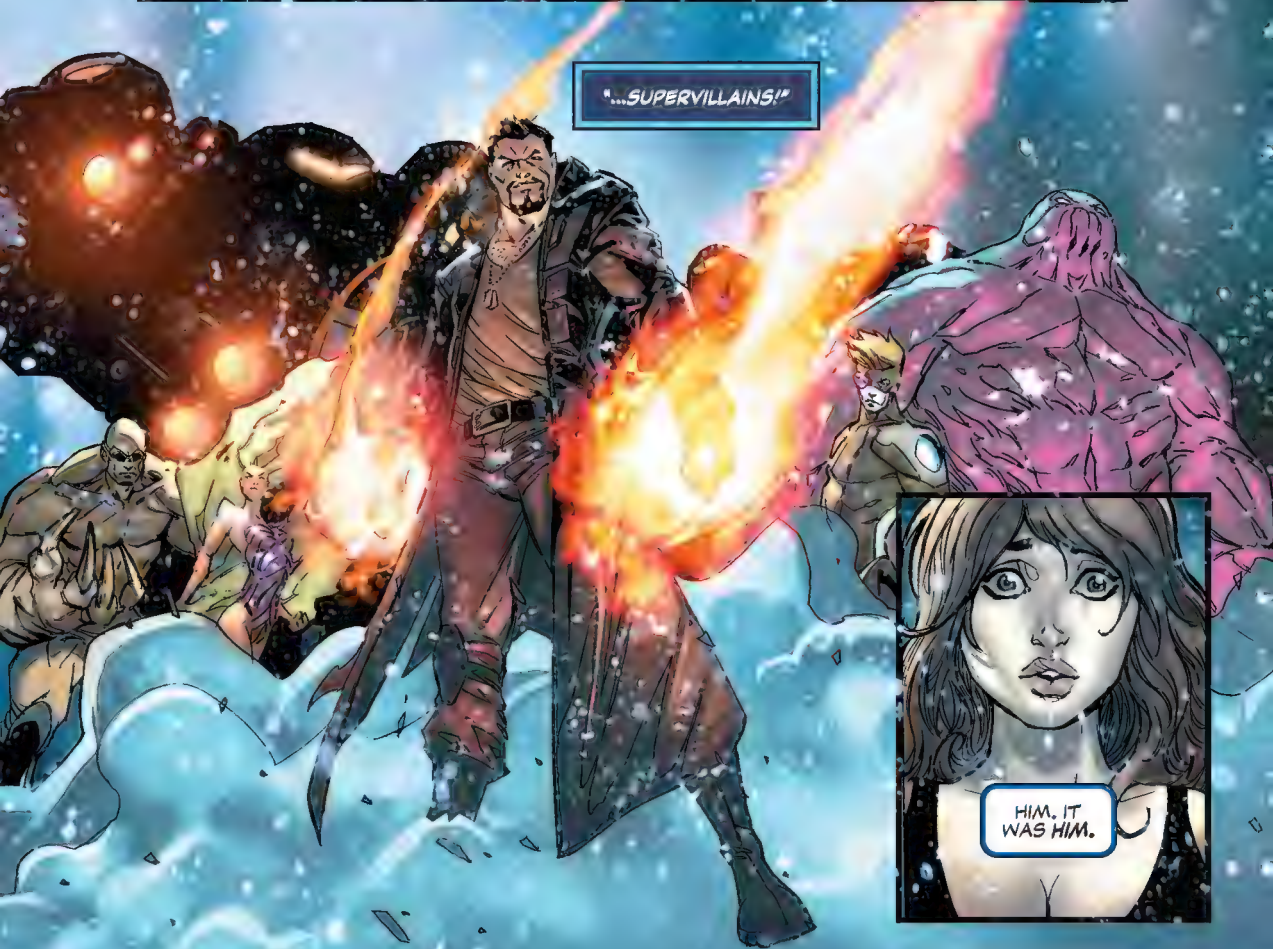
"THIS TIME, YOU'RE NOT JUST BATTLING OUR INFAMOUS ROBOTS."



"YOU'LL ALSO BE BATTLING THE ELEMENTS."

"AND, AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, HERE'S THE REAL TEST--"

"--FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU'LL BE FACING OFF AGAINST HOLOGRAMS OF..."



"...SUPERVILLAINS!"

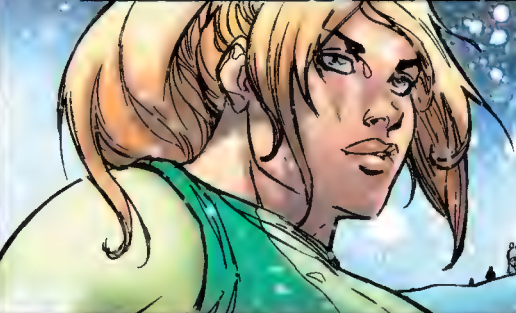


"HIM. IT WAS HIM."



STASIS!

OK, IT WAS REALLY JUST A HOLOGRAM OF HIM-- I HAD TO TRY AND KEEP THAT IN MIND, IT'S NOT REAL-- BUT, STILL...



...IT WAS HIM.



DO THEY KNOW?!



I DON'T THINK I EVER MENTIONED THAT HE WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED MY PARENTS, BUT COULD THEY HAVE SOMEHOW FOUND OUT? DID THEY BRING HIM INTO THIS SCENARIO TO CHALLENGE ME DIRECTLY?



THEY PROBABLY DID FIND OUT SOMEHOW, AND PUT HIM HERE JUST TO SEE HOW I'D REACT, SEE IF I'D FALL APART WHEN FACED WITH THE MAN WHO RUINED MY LIFE.

NOW, LET'S
SEE HOW YOU EACH
HANDLE IT. AS ALWAYS,
MEDICS ARE ON-SITE AND
READY SHOULD THERE BE
ANY... UNFORTUNATE
ACCIDENTS.

YOU HAVE
FIFTEEN MINUTES
IN WHICH TO PROVE
YOURSELF. PROVE YOUR
STRENGTH, YOUR POWER,
YOUR FORTITUDE, YOUR
HEART. AND...



...BATTLE ON, IDOLS!



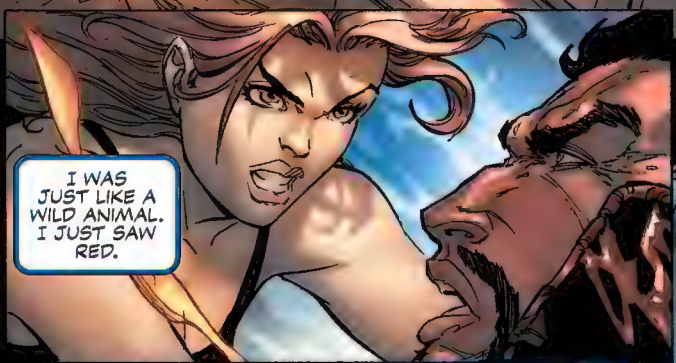


I WASN'T
THINKING.

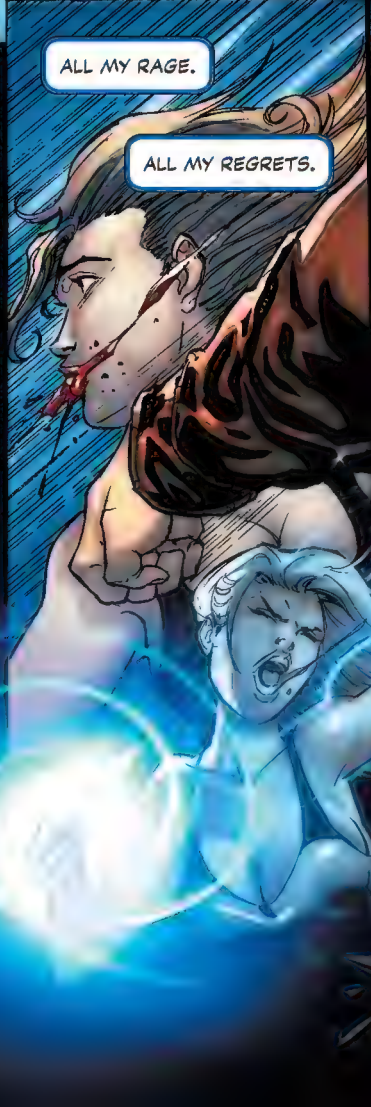


NOT ACTING RATIONALLY,
NOT PLANNING OUT MY MOVES,
NOT USING ANY OF THE SKILL OR
STRATEGIES I'D LEARNED
OVER THE YEARS.

NOT REASONING
MY WAY FORWARD.



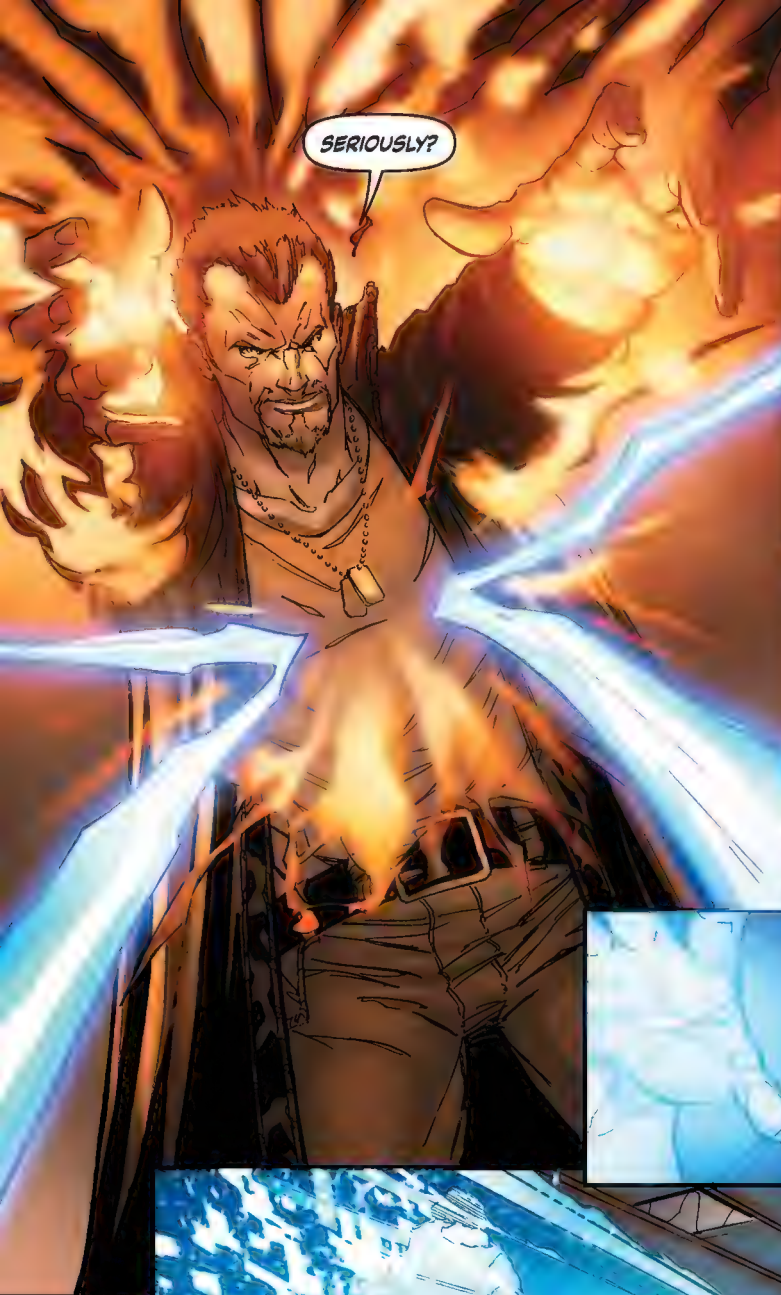
I WAS
JUST LIKE A
WILD ANIMAL.
I JUST SAW
RED.



ALL MY RAGE.

ALL MY REGRETS.

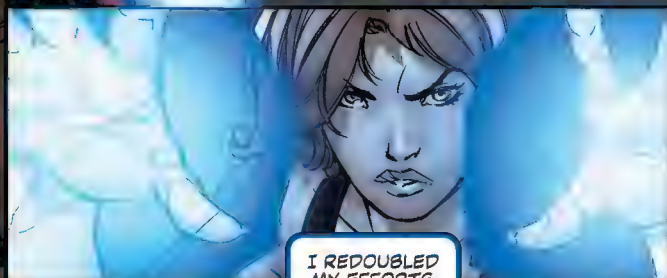
MY REVENGE.



SERIOUSLY?



DID YOU FORGET THAT I CAN STOP ALL MOTION, INCLUDING THE MOTION OF THE ENERGY IN YOUR BLASTS?



I REDOUBLED MY EFFORTS, LET LOOSE...

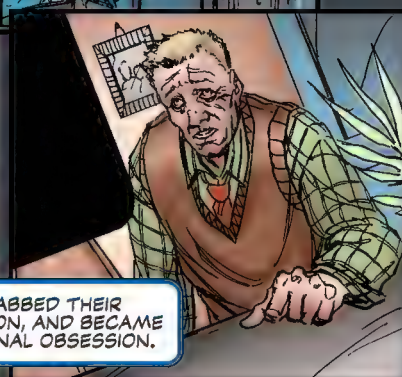
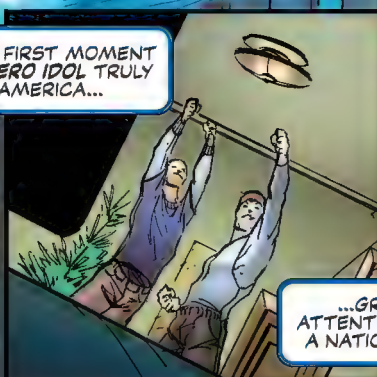
...AND BLASTED HIM APART.



ACCORDING TO THE JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS...



...THIS WAS THE FIRST MOMENT WHERE SUPERHERO IDOL TRULY SHOCKED AMERICA...



...GRABBED THEIR ATTENTION, AND BECAME A NATIONAL OBSESSION.



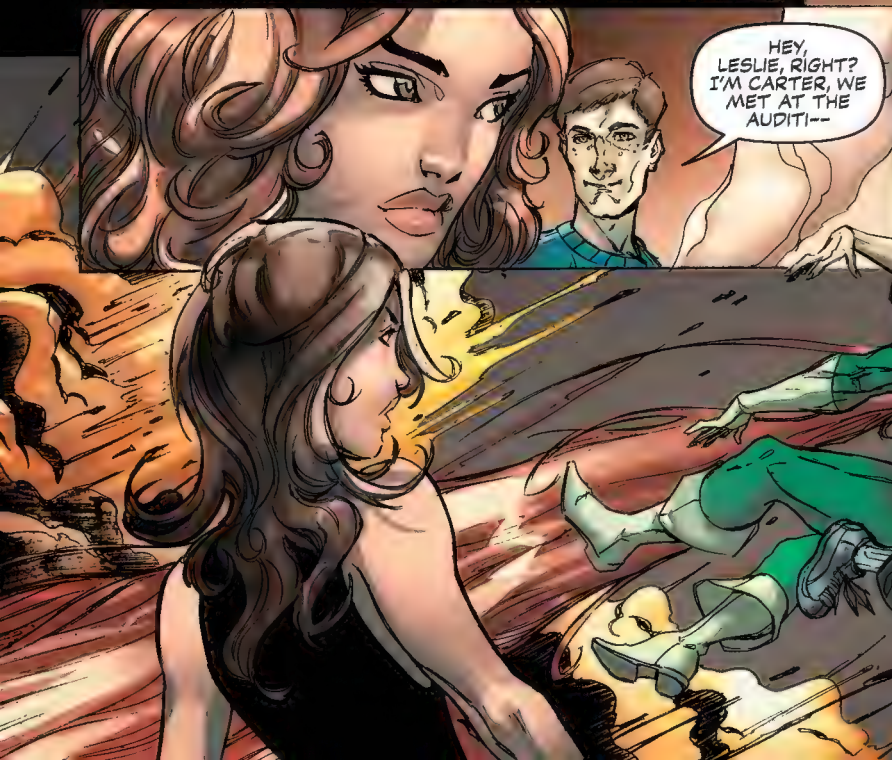
DID YOU FORGET THAT YOU'RE A FREAKIN' HOLOGRAM, MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF ENERGY? AND, THAT I CAN CONTROL ENERGY AND DESTROY YOU AT WILL?



OKAY, NO MORE HOLOGRAM CHALLENGES FOR THE GIRL WHO CAN CONTROL ENERGY! C'MON, PEOPLE!



HEY.



HEY, LESLIE, RIGHT? I'M CARTER, WE MET AT THE AUDITI--





CARTER HAD
GOTTEN HIMSELF
ALL TANGLED UP IN
CAPTAIN BEARD'S MIND-
CONTROLLED FACIAL HAIR.
GOOD. IT GAVE ME A
CHANCE TO PLAY
THE HERO.

DON'T
WORRY, GUYS.
I'VE GOT
THIS.

CUTE,
POWERFUL,
AND SHE STEPS UP
TO DEFEND HER
COMPETITORS?

THE WHOLE
PACKAGE.

OR, JUST
SOMEONE WHO
REALLY KNOWS
HOW TO PLAY
THE GAME.



WHAT
HAPPENED?
THAT WASN'T
FIFTEEN
MIN--

--I'M GETTING A MESSAGE FROM
THE PRODUCERS THAT APPARENTLY DOUG
USED HIS WIRELESS COMPUTER MIND LINK
TO HACK INTO THE SHOW'S SERVERS AND
SHUT DOWN THE CHALLENGE!

"I REPROGRAMMED
THE SIMULATION SO IT
WAS POSSIBLE TO SAVE
THE SHIP. I CHANGED
THE CONDITIONS OF
THE TEST."

KOBYASHI
MARU, BABY.



THANKS.
YOU SAVED ME. I
DEFINITELY OWE
YOU ONE.

YOU DON'T
OWE ME AT ALL.
YOUR ADVICE AT THE
AUDITION WAS
BRILLIANT.

SO, YOU
ACTUALLY
REMEMBERED
ME? FROM THE
AUDITION?
WOW. COOL!*

I MEAN--

--OK, EVERYONE,
WE'RE NOT WASTING
ANY TIME HERE. THE
JUDGES HAVE MADE THEIR
DECISIONS, AND WE'RE
READY TO ANNOUNCE
OUR TEN FINALISTS!

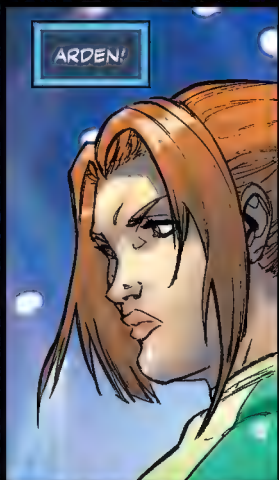
*SEE PAGES 1 AND 2
OF IDOLIZED #41

LET'S
DIM THE
LIGHTS.



OK, IF I
CALL YOUR NAME,
PLEASE STEP FORWARD.
YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL
I'M DONE WHICH LINE
IS STAYING...

...AND
WHICH LINE'S
"SUPERHERO IDOL"
JOURNEY ENDS
HERE.



ARDEN!



BRIAN!



ANJELIQUE!



CLAYTON!



CARTER!



JANNI!



THE MAN WHO
RUINED OUR LATEST
COMPETITION-- DOUG!



TEMIR!



ERIKA!



AND...
LESLIE!



JUDGES, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE CONTESTANTS WHO'VE STEPPED FORWARD?



YOU KNOW, THEY'VE EACH GOT GREAT **STRENGTHS**, BUT THEY ALL HAVE SERIOUS **WEAKNESSES**, TOO.

I MEAN, FOR ME, IT'S LIKE, MYTH'S **SUPER-STRONG**, BUT SHE REFUSES TO DO ANYTHING THAT COULD HURT ANOTHER HUMAN BEING, AND LACKING THAT KILLER INSTINCT CAN BE A **HUGE LIABILITY** IN THIS BUSINESS.

"CLAYTON'S GOT AN AMAZING HEART, BUT HE'S GOT NO **POWERS**.

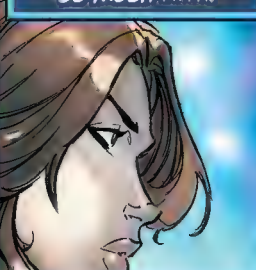


"ANJELIQUE, THE PRODUCERS WOULD PROBABLY **HATE IT** IF WE PUT YOU THROUGH, WOULDN'T THEY?



"THE POTENTIAL LIABILITY OF EXPOSING THE STUDIO AUDIENCE TO RADIATION COULD BE, LIKE, TOTALLY **ASTRONOMICAL**, COULDN'T IT?

"AND LESLIE, GIRL, YOU'VE GOT THESE **CRAZY**, KILLER POWERS THAT YOU COULD DO **SO MUCH** WITH.



"AND AMERICA LOVES YOUR STORY, BUT YOU'VE GOT THIS MEAN, **ANGRY STREAK** IN YOU THAT JUST MAKES YOU **SO...**"

...UNPREDICTABLE THAT I JUST DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN EVEN STAY FOCUSED ENOUGH TO **CUT IT**, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?



I MEAN, I COULD GO ON ABOUT **ALL OF YOU**, BUT--



--SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT THEY ALL HAVE TREMENDOUS **POTENTIAL**, BUT ALSO SOME **FLAWS** THAT MAY MAKE THEM VULNERABLE IN THIS COMPETITION, IS THAT RIGHT, JAMES?

EXACTLY, NOAH.



WELL, FOR THOSE TEN OF YOU WHOSE NAMES I'VE CALLED, I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT...

...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP ON FIGHTING. YOU'VE MADE IT THROUGH! YOU'RE OUR TOP TEN!

FOLKS IN THE BACK LINE, I'M SORRY, THAT MEANS YOU'RE GOING HOME.

UH, EXCUSE ME, SIR.

I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...

ON NEXT WEEK'S SHOW, YOU'LL EACH BE GETTING YOUR OFFICIAL SUPERHERO NAMES, AND ACTUAL SUPERHERO COSTUMES THAT OUR INCREDIBLE FASHION DESIGNERS HAVE BEEN--

--WHAT? WAIT...

...SERIOUSLY?? OK.

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT, LESLIE...

...YOU'VE JUST BEEN DISQUALIFIED!

END ISSUE TWO.



DAVID SCHWARTZ DE A STAR...
PASQUALE QUALANO
DAVID CURIEL

Vol. 1

...A SUPERSTAR!

#3
COVER A

Idolized





DAVID SCHWARTZ DE A STAR...
PASQUALE QUALANO
DAVID CURIEL

...A SUPERSTAR!

#3
COVER B

VOL. 1

Idolized

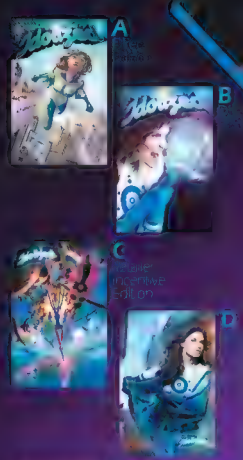


blitz

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★★ It's the End of the Show As We Know It (Do I Survive?) ★★

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WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS FULL OF PROMISE AND ENERGY. I WAS A HAPPY LITTLE KID.

AT THAT POINT, MY DESTINY WAS WIDE OPEN. I COULD'VE BEEN ANYTHING. DOCTOR, LAWYER, TEACHER, PRESIDENT. ANYTHING.

UNTIL THIS HAPPENED.

ONE WRONG MOVE, ONE MOMENT BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME, AND MY ENTIRE LIFE WAS SUDDENLY RIPPED AWAY.

EVER SINCE THEN, MY LIFE, MY DESTINY, HAS BECOME ABOUT JUST ONE THING-- VENGENCE. AND I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYONE STOP ME FROM ACHIEVING IT...



WHAT??

I'M SORRY, BUT
YOU'VE JUST BEEN
DISQUALIFIED.

THE PRODUCERS
WOULD LIKE TO SEE
YOU IMMEDIATELY.



IS THIS
YOU IN THESE
PHOTOS?

HOW DID
YOU---?

THEY WERE E-MAILED
TO US. IN A FEW HOURS I'M
SURE THEY'RE GOING TO BE
ALL OVER THE WEB.



DRINKING,
DRUGS, ARRESTS...
WORSE.

IS THIS
YOU?



THIS IS
WHY YOU'RE
DISQUALIFIED. THIS
IS WHY YOU CAN'T
BE AN IDOL.

WAIT A MINUTE.
GIVE HER A CHANCE TO
RESPOND. REMEMBER,
THESE ARE ALL JUST
KIDS HERE--

--YOU HAD A LOT
TO SAY AT YOUR
AUDITION. WHAT DO
YOU HAVE TO SAY
NOW?



AFTER
MY FAMILY
WAS KILLED, I
WAS PRETTY
SCREWED
UP.

EXTREMELY
SCREWED UP.

OBSOLETE.

THERE WERE
YEARS WHEN I WAS
COMPLETELY LOST, AND
I MADE BAD CHOICES--
TERRIBLE CHOICES--
I ADMIT THAT.



YOU DIDN'T
DISCLOSE IT ON YOUR
APPLICATION.



WOULD
YOU?

LOOK, I TOLD
YOU THAT I NEEDED
REDEMPTION.

I HAVE NO PROBLEM
ADMITTING MY MISTAKES,
APOLOGIZING FOR THEM, I'LL
DO IT ON NATIONAL TV
IF YOU WANT.



TOO
LITTLE, TOO
LATE.

I CAN
BE A ROLE
MODEL FOR
CHANGING YOUR
LIFE, TURNING
THINGS AROUND,
STARTING
OVER.



ISN'T THAT PART
OF WHAT AMERICA'S
ABOUT? **FORGIVENESS?**
SECOND CHANCES?

SUPPORTING SOME-
ONE WHO'S BEEN ABLE TO
OVERCOME THEIR OWN INNER
DEMONS TO ULTIMATELY DO
SOMETHING **POSITIVE**
WITH THEIR LIFE?

PLEASE.
I'LL DO
ANYTHING.

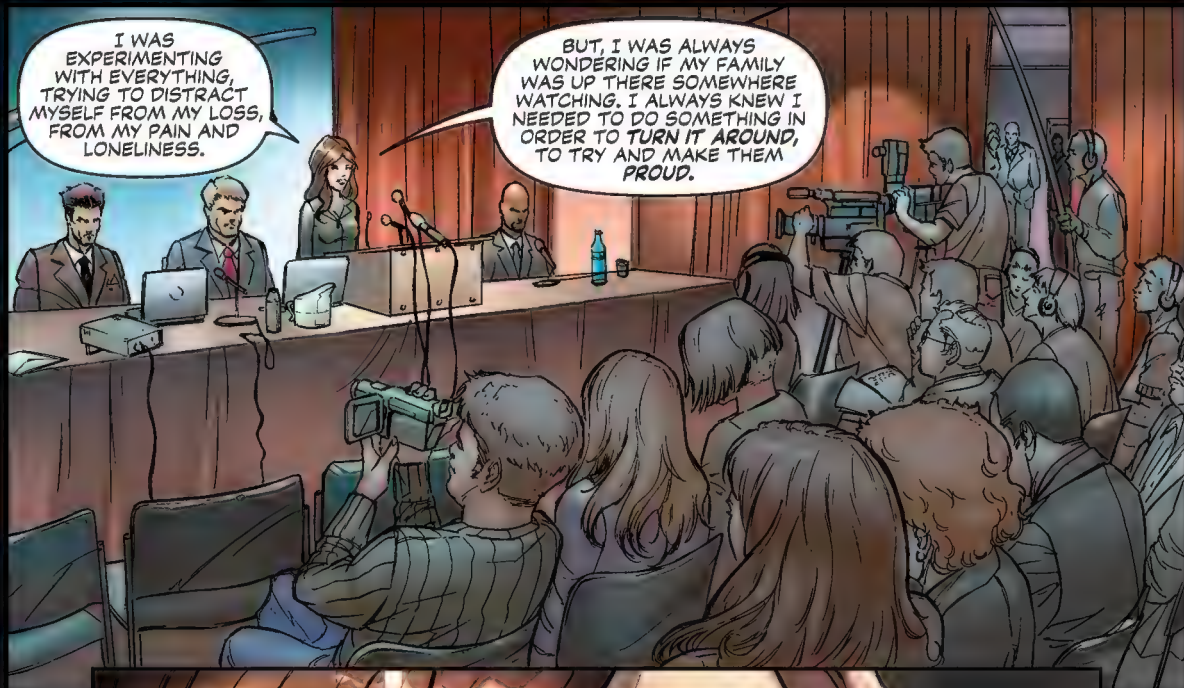


GUYS, LOOK, IF WE KICK HER OFF,
SHE'S JUST AN **EMBARRASSMENT**
TO US AND A CLEAR FAILURE IN OUR
VETTING PROCESS. IF WE KEEP HER,
WE CAN **MERCHANDISE** HER AND
HER JOURNEY TO REDEMPTION.

IT'S A GREAT
STORYLINE THAT
WE CAN SELL.

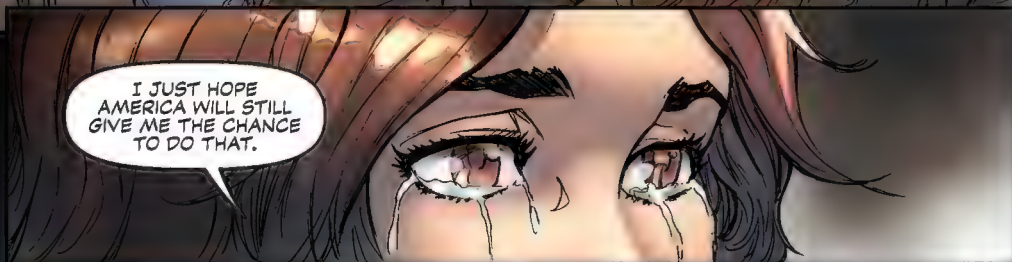
IT'LL BE
CONTROVERSY,
IT'LL BE **FRONT-
PAGE NEWS--**

--DOESN'T
THAT EQUAL
RATINGS?

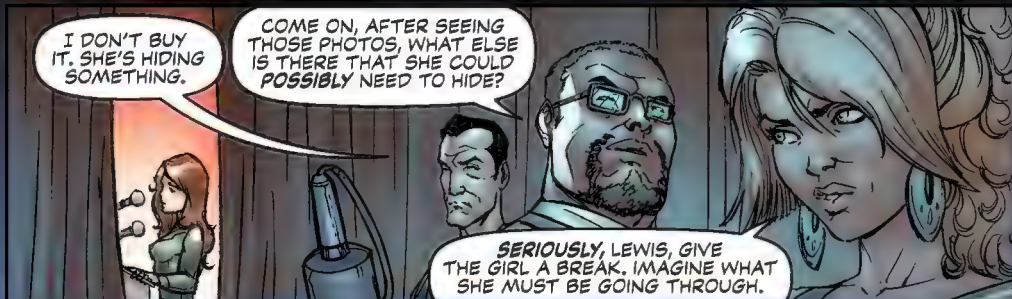


I WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH EVERYTHING, TRYING TO DISTRACT MYSELF FROM MY LOSS, FROM MY PAIN AND LONELINESS.

BUT, I WAS ALWAYS WONDERING IF MY FAMILY WAS UP THERE SOMEWHERE WATCHING. I ALWAYS KNEW I NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING IN ORDER TO TURN IT AROUND, TO TRY AND MAKE THEM PROUD.



I JUST HOPE AMERICA WILL STILL GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO DO THAT.

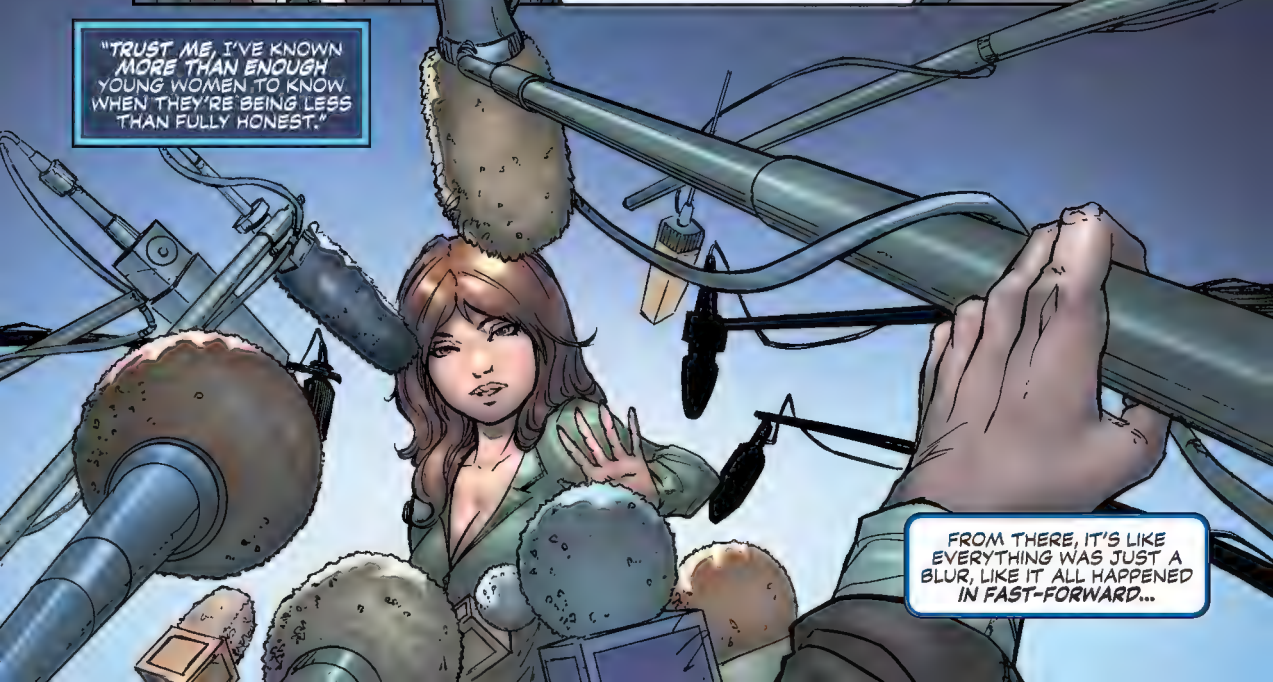


I DON'T BUY IT. SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING.

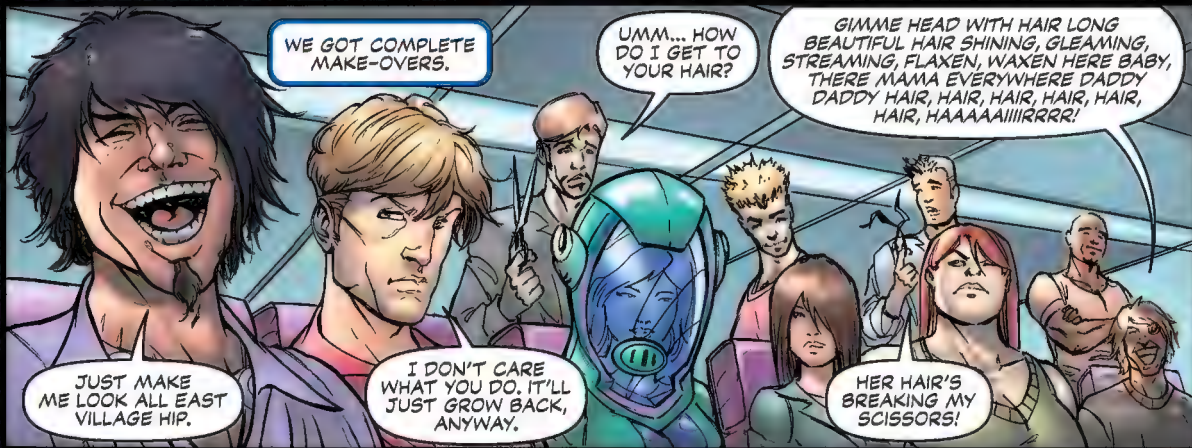
COME ON, AFTER SEEING THOSE PHOTOS, WHAT ELSE IS THERE THAT SHE COULD POSSIBLY NEED TO HIDE?

SERIOUSLY, LEWIS, GIVE THE GIRL A BREAK. IMAGINE WHAT SHE MUST BE GOING THROUGH.

"TRUST ME, I'VE KNOWN MORE THAN ENOUGH YOUNG WOMEN TO KNOW WHEN THEY'RE BEING LESS THAN FULLY HONEST."

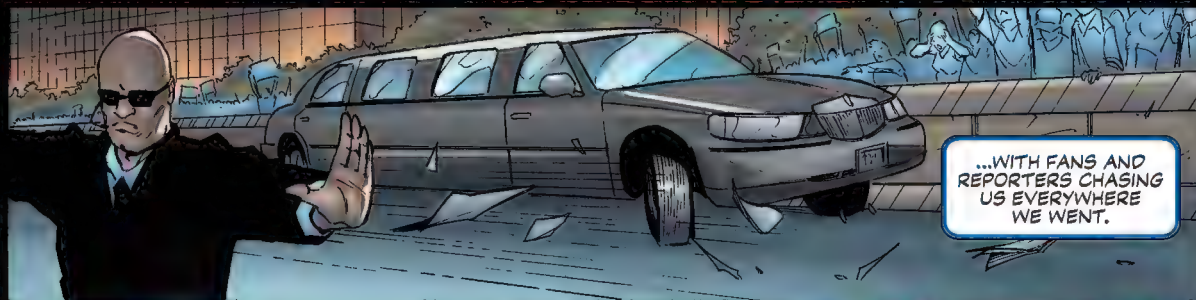


FROM THERE, IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING WAS JUST A BLUR, LIKE IT ALL HAPPENED IN FAST-FORWARD...

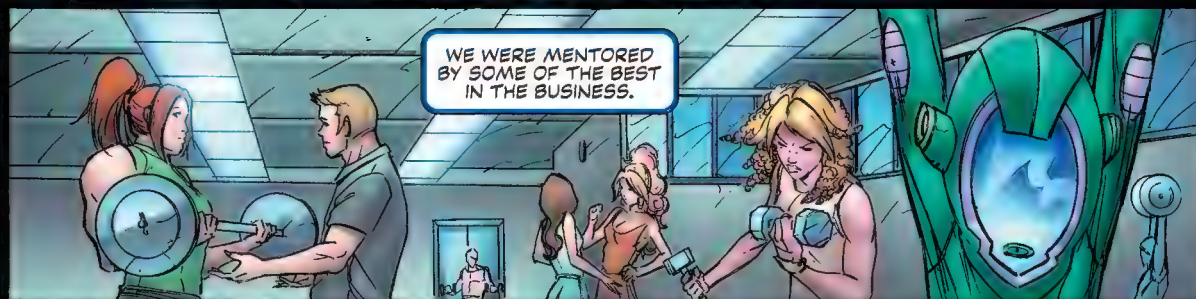




NEW CLOTHES, NEW HAIR,
WEARING MAKE-UP FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE. GOING
TO BIG MOVIE PREMIERES...



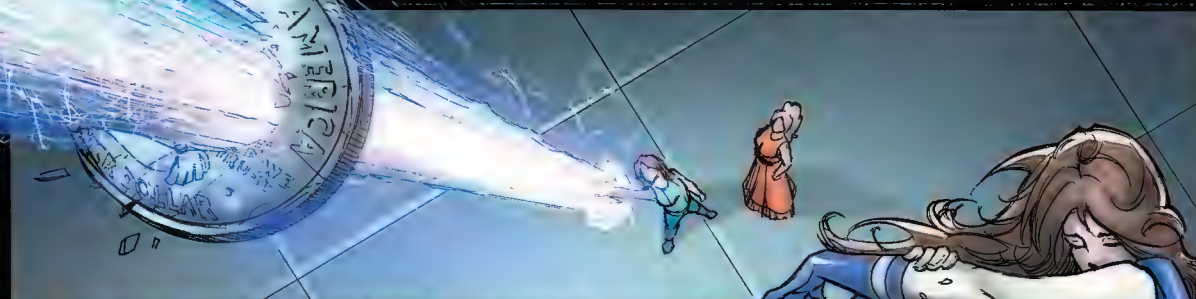
...WITH FANS AND
REPORTERS CHASING
US EVERYWHERE
WE WENT.



WE WERE MENTORED
BY SOME OF THE BEST
IN THE BUSINESS.



LEARNING STRATEGIES,
REFINING OUR POWERS.



FRANKLY, IT ALL MADE ME
REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE. I'M
DEFINITELY NOT A SPANDEX
AND MAKE-UP KINDA GIRL.

OF COURSE, THERE
WASN'T MUCH TIME
TO THINK ABOUT THAT,
BECAUSE EVERY FEW
DAYS WE'D HAVE TO...

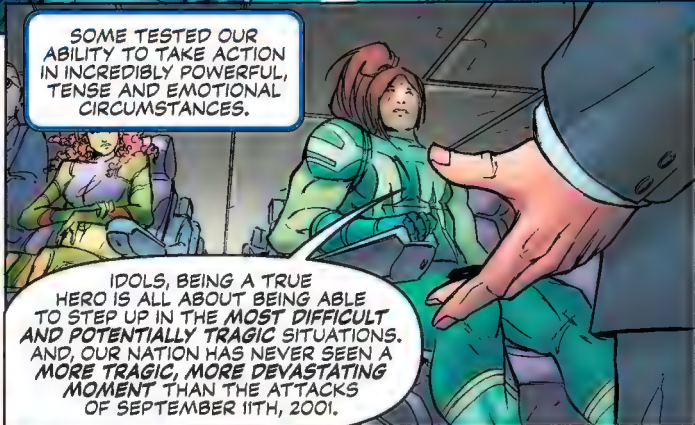
...BATTLE!



SOME OF THE COMPETITIONS WOULD TEST OUR BRUTE FORCE.



SOME TESTED OUR ABILITY TO TAKE ACTION IN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL, TENSE AND EMOTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.



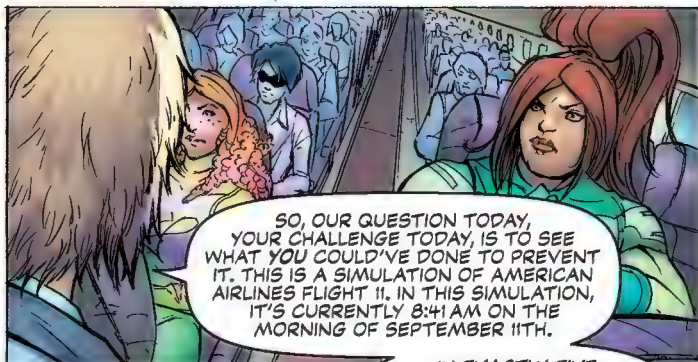
IDOLS, BEING A TRUE HERO IS ALL ABOUT BEING ABLE TO STEP UP IN THE MOST DIFFICULT AND POTENTIALLY TRAGIC SITUATIONS. AND, OUR NATION HAS NEVER SEEN A MORE TRAGIC, MORE DEVASTATING MOMENT THAN THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001.

SOME WOULD TEST OUR DETECTIVE SKILLS.

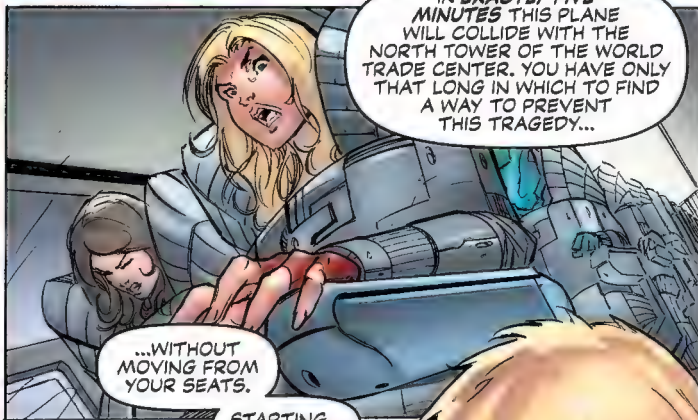


HE'S DEAD, JIM.

SO, OUR QUESTION TODAY, YOUR CHALLENGE TODAY, IS TO SEE WHAT YOU COULD'VE DONE TO PREVENT IT. THIS IS A SIMULATION OF AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 11. IN THIS SIMULATION, IT'S CURRENTLY 8:41 AM ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 11TH.



IN EXACTLY FIVE MINUTES THIS PLANE WILL COLLIDE WITH THE NORTH TOWER OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER. YOU HAVE ONLY THAT LONG IN WHICH TO FIND A WAY TO PREVENT THIS TRAGEDY...

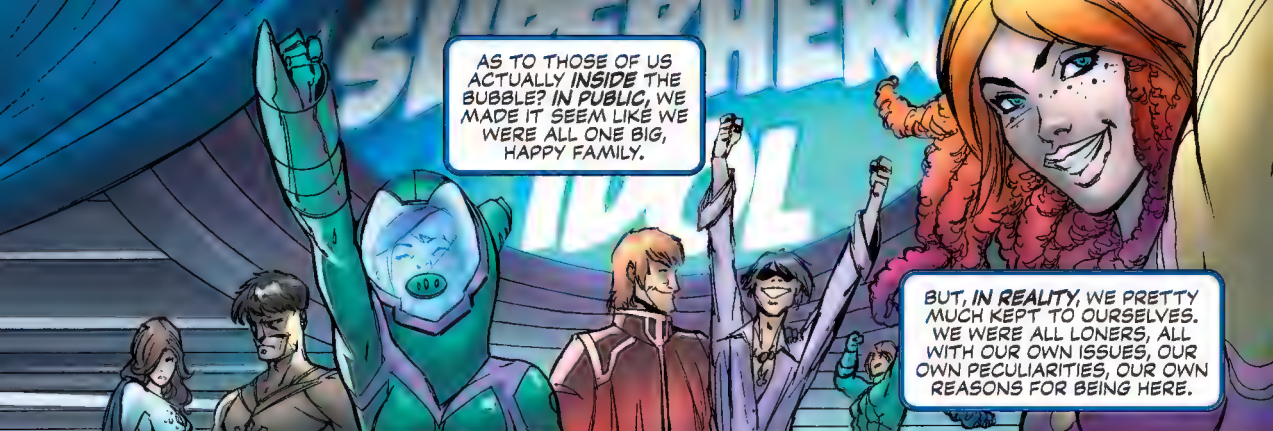


...WITHOUT MOVING FROM YOUR SEATS.

STARTING... NOW!

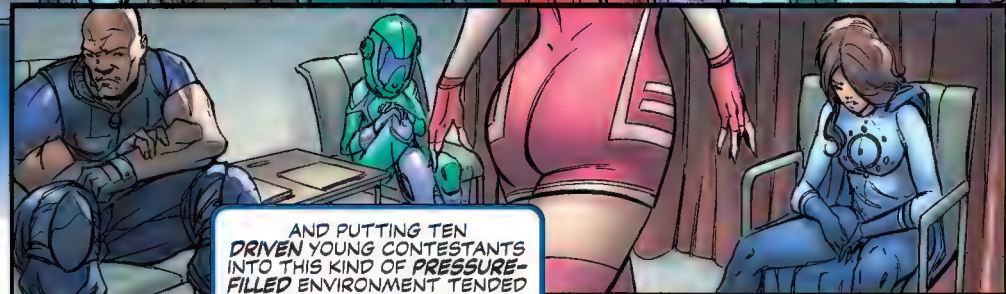
IT WAS ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL MOVE BY THE PRODUCERS, AND IT OFFENDED MANY, BUT THAT ONLY SERVED TO INCREASE THE RATINGS EVEN FURTHER. EACH WEEK, MORE AND MORE MILLIONS TUNED IN TO SEE WHAT KIND OF EXPLOSIVE NEW CONTROVERSY THE SHOW WOULD UNLEASH.



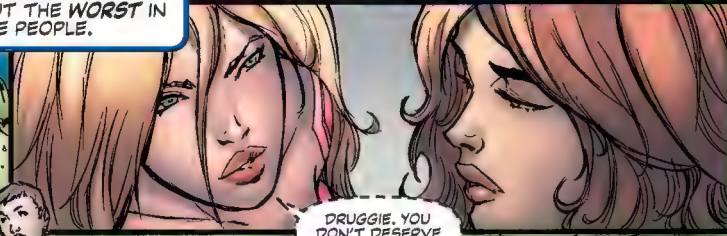


AS TO THOSE OF US
ACTUALLY *INSIDE* THE
BUBBLE? IN *PUBLIC*, WE
MADE IT SEEM LIKE WE
WERE ALL ONE BIG,
HAPPY FAMILY.

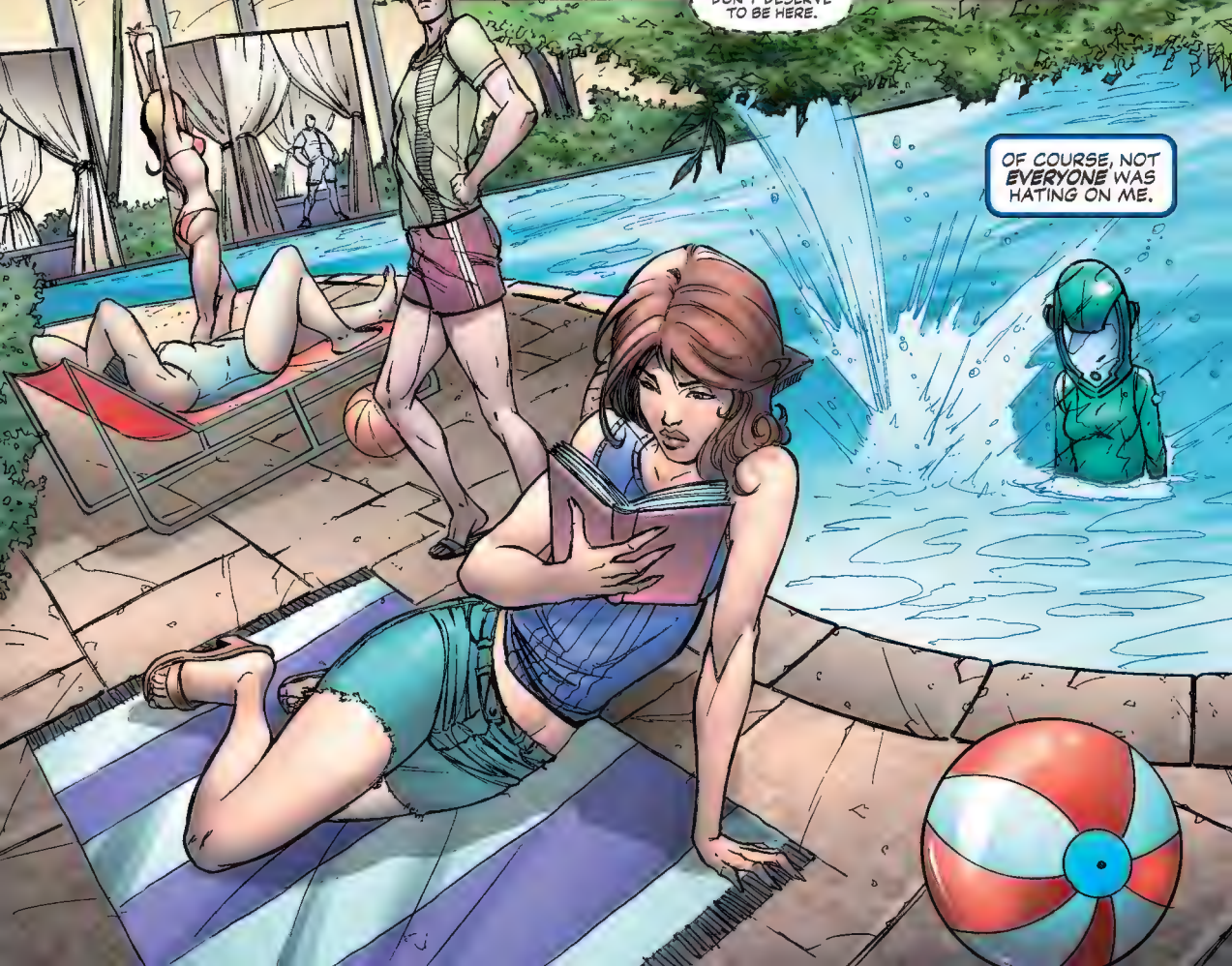
BUT, IN *REALITY*, WE PRETTY
MUCH KEPT TO OURSELVES.
WE WERE ALL LONERS, ALL
WITH OUR OWN ISSUES, OUR
OWN PECULIARITIES, OUR OWN
REASONS FOR BEING HERE.



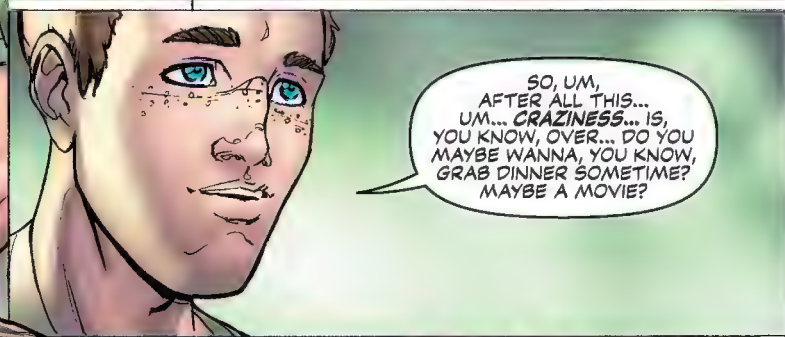
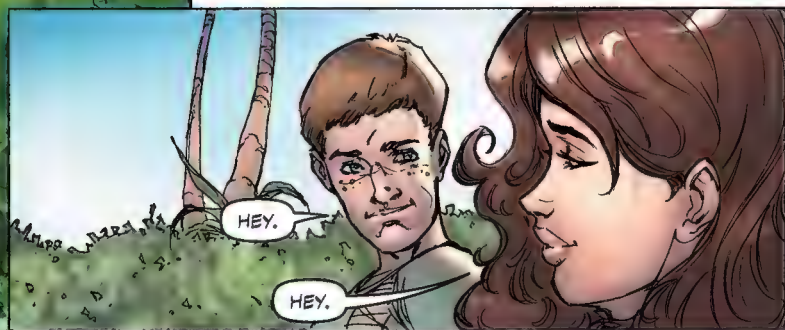
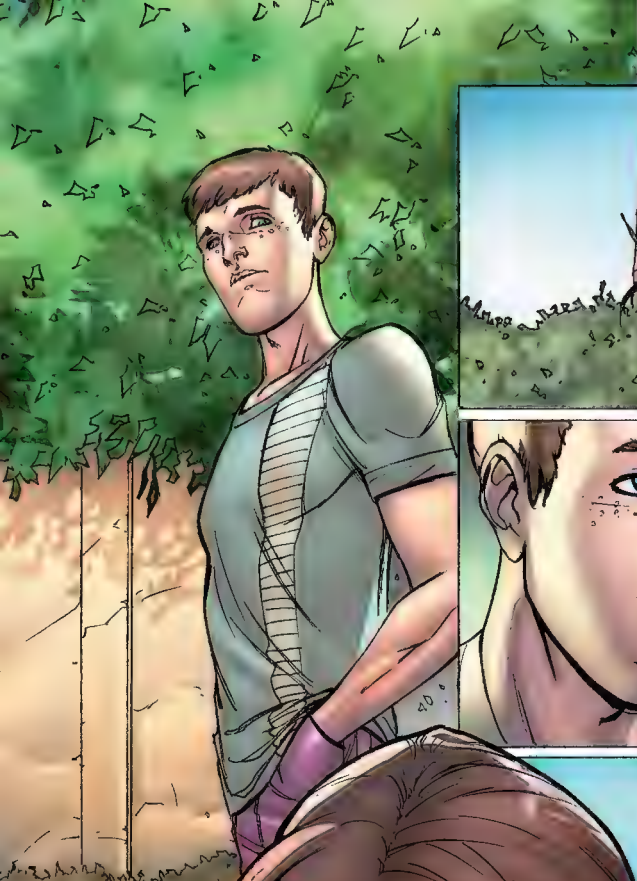
AND PUTTING TEN
DRIVEN YOUNG CONTESTANTS
INTO THIS KIND OF *PRESSURE-*
FILLED ENVIRONMENT TENDED
TO BRING OUT THE WORST IN
SOME PEOPLE.



DRUGGIE. YOU
DON'T DESERVE
TO BE HERE.



OF COURSE, NOT
EVERYONE WAS
HATING ON ME.

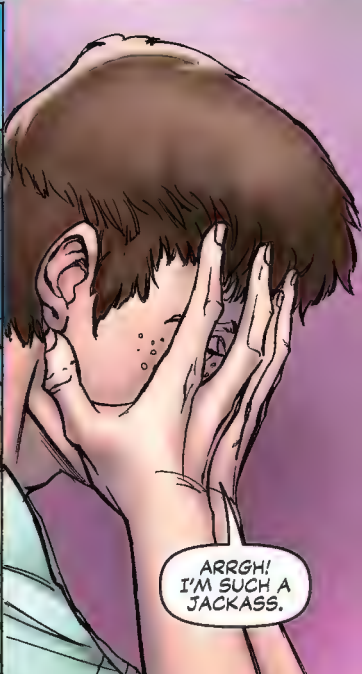
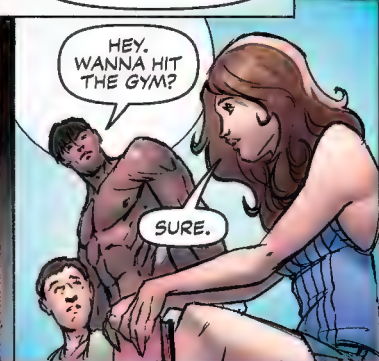


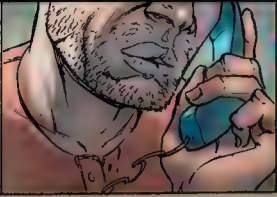


THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF DATING IS TO FIND A COMPANION, FORM A FAMILY, RIGHT? I'VE ALREADY CAUSED THE DEATH OF MY FAMILY.

I DON'T DESERVE A NEW ONE.

SO, THERE'S NO POINT IN WASTING MY TIME-- OR YOURS-- OR ANYONE ELSE'S-- WITH DATING.





EACH WEEK, TENS OF MILLIONS OF VIEWERS WOULD CAST THEIR VOTES, AND ONE OF US WOULD GET KICKED OFF.



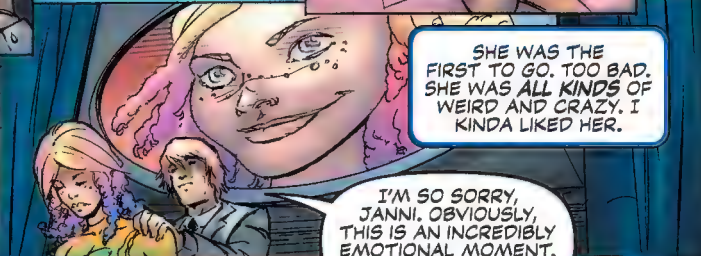
LITTLE BY LITTLE OUR RANKS WERE NARROWED, AND THE SELECTION OF WHO WENT HOME OFTEN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.



FOR INSTANCE, PSYCHEDELIX'S POWER SENDS HER VICTIMS ON AN ACID TRIP-LIKE EXPERIENCE.



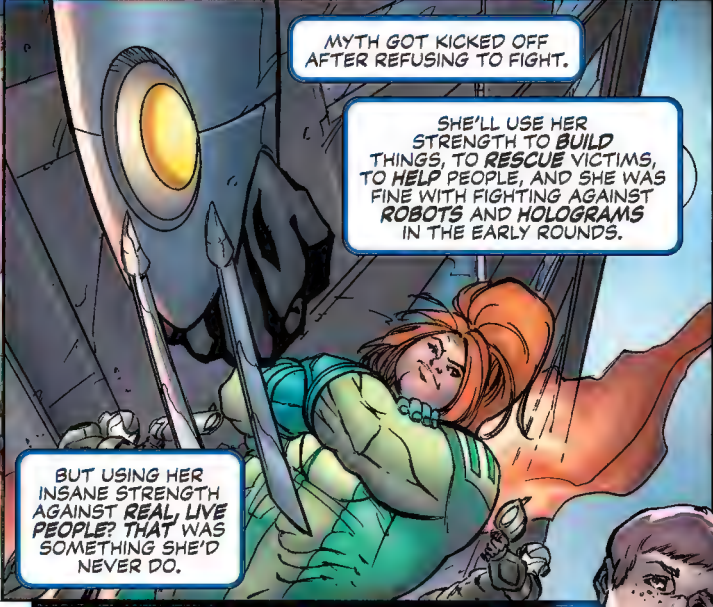
SHE WAS THE FIRST TO GO. TOO BAD. SHE WAS ALL KINDS OF WEIRD AND CRAZY. I KINDA LIKED HER.



I'M SO SORRY, JANNI. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY EMOTIONAL MOMENT. WE'RE ALL SO SAD TO SEE YOU GO.

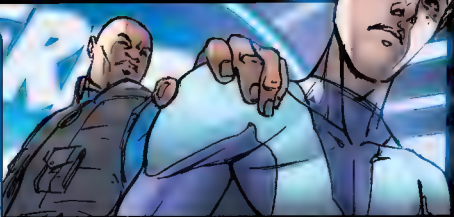


MYTH GOT KICKED OFF AFTER REFUSING TO FIGHT.



SHE'LL USE HER STRENGTH TO BUILD THINGS, TO RESCUE VICTIMS, TO HELP PEOPLE, AND SHE WAS FINE WITH FIGHTING AGAINST ROBOTS AND HOLOGRAMS IN THE EARLY ROUNDS.

BUT USING HER INSANE STRENGTH AGAINST REAL, LIVE PEOPLE? THAT WAS SOMETHING SHE'D NEVER DO.



CARTER'S POWERS ARE MIND-CONTROL. HE WAS KICKED OFF AFTER BEING ACCUSED (FALSELY, I THINK) OF MANIPULATING THE MINDS OF THE JUDGES AND THE VOTERS.

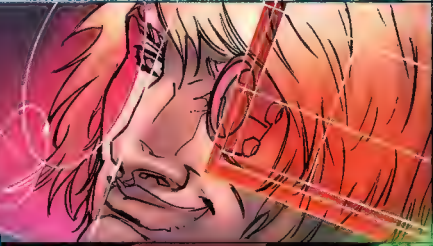


AND, SHE'S GOT A TOTALLY HIPPIY MENTALITY ABOUT HER. FREE LOVE, USE SUBSTANCES TO EXPAND YOUR MIND, MAKE LOVE NOT WAR, AND ALL THAT.

MIDDLE AMERICA DIDN'T LIKE ANY OF THAT VERY MUCH. FROM THE VERY FIRST TIME SHE APPEARED IN THE SHOW'S INITIAL AUDITION ROUNDS, THERE WERE ALREADY INTERNET CAMPAIGNS TO GET HER KICKED OFF.



IT WAS A HUGE
AND HUMILIATING SCANDAL.
ONCE THE RUMOR CAUGHT FIRE IN
THE SOCIAL MEDIA, THE PRODUCERS
HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO REMOVE
HIM FROM THE SHOW, OR ELSE RISK
HAVING THE COMPETITION LOSE
ALL CREDIBILITY.



WIRELESS WAS NEXT. HIS
POWERS-- USING HIS MIND
AND CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS
TO HOOK WIRELESSLY INTO
THE WEB-- WEREN'T VISUAL
OR FLASHY ENOUGH TO
BLOW THE VIEWERS AWAY.



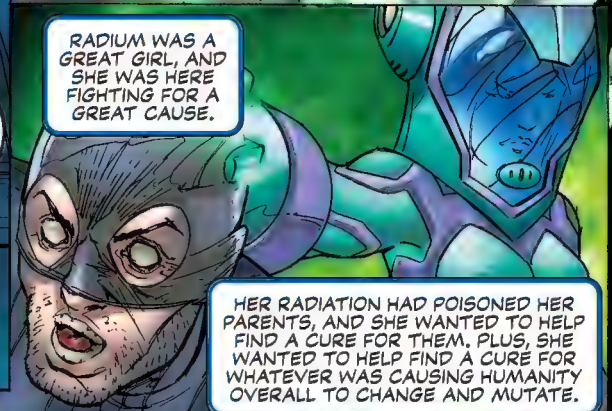
HIS POWERS AND
ABILITIES-- INCREDIBLE
THOUGH THEY WERE-- WERE
ALL IN HIS HEAD.

AND THE FACT THAT HE
ONLY TALKED IN MOVIE OR SONG
QUOTES-- CALLING UP HIS WORDS
FROM THE INTERNET INSTEAD OF
EVER ACTUALLY SPEAKING HIS OWN
MIND-- PROBABLY GOT WAY TOO
ANNOYING AFTER A WHILE.



SO LONG,
FAREWELL, AUF
WIEDERSEHEN,
ADIEU!

ADIEU,
ADIEU, TO YIEU
AND YIEU AND
YIEU!



RADIUM WAS A
GREAT GIRL, AND
SHE WAS HERE
FIGHTING FOR A
GREAT CAUSE.

HER RADIATION HAD POISONED HER
PARENTS, AND SHE WANTED TO HELP
FIND A CURE FOR THEM. PLUS, SHE
WANTED TO HELP FIND A CURE FOR
WHATEVER WAS CAUSING HUMANITY
OVERALL TO CHANGE AND MUTATE.

WHILE IT MAY BE WONDERFUL THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HAVE GOTTEN POWERS, THERE ARE ALSO DANGERS TO THESE MUTATIONS, AND WE REALLY SHOULD BE LOOKING TO TRY AND FIND THE ROOT CAUSES BEFORE MORE AND MORE DAMAGE IS DONE, BEFORE MORE CANCERS AND RADIATION POISONING AND OTHER MALADIES TAKE FIRMER HOLD. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THE WAYS WE'VE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED OUR FOOD, OR BECAUSE OF ALL THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSIONS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR. WHATEVER THE REASON, HUMANITY IS CHANGING, AND I HOPE TO HELP SUPPORT RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES AND CURES.

THIS ISN'T GOODBYE, ANJELIQUE. WE HERE AT SUPERHERO IDOL WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF:
The Anjelique Puerza Foundation
10,000

SHE DIDN'T MIND BEING ELIMINATED. SHE HAD ACCOMPLISHED WHAT SHE NEEDED TO, PUBLICIZED HER CAUSE, AND HER FOUNDATION WAS OFF TO A SOLID START.

HOCUS HAD VERY COOL POWERS. HE COULD MAKE ANY OBJECT HE KNEW, AND THAT HE KNEW THE EXACT LOCATION OF, APPEAR IN HIS HANDS... LIKE MAGIC.

SO, HE KEPT AN APARTMENT FULL OF WEAPONS, SUPPLIES AND OTHER RANDOM OBJECTS SOMEWHERE THAT HE COULD ALWAYS DRAW ON.

BUT HE WAS ALSO AN UNREPENTANT SMART-ASS. REBELLIOUS TEENS AND TWENTY-SOMETHINGS LOVED HIM. OLDER VOTERS?

NOT SO MUCH.

WHEN REGENERATE-- TEMIR-- LEFT? THAT WAS THE TOUGHEST ONE FOR ME.

I KNEW HE WAS A WOMANIZER, KNEW HE WAS BAD NEWS, KNEW THAT I NEEDED TO AVOID DISTRACTIONS. BUT, STILL, THERE WAS PART OF ME THAT WAS DESPERATELY DRAWN TO HIM.

ANOTHER PART OF ME FELT LIKE I NEEDED THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THIS. SOMEONE LIGHT AND UPBEAT AND RESOUNDINGLY HAPPY, LIKE CARTER.

BUT, IN SPITE OF MYSELF, I STILL GAVE IN. KEPT MAKING THE SAME BAD CHOICES I'VE ALWAYS MADE.

IN THE COMPETITIONS, THOUGH, I WAS MUCH MORE CALCULATED. IN SOME COMPETITIONS I HAD MADE SURE TO STEP UP AND SHOW THAT I WASN'T AFRAID TO LEAD AND MAKE TOUGH CHOICES.

MINDFULL, SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE OVER THE MINDS OF THE TERRORISTS AND CONVINCE THEM TO ABORT THE MISSION ON BOTH PLANES.

WIRELESS, SEE IF YOU CAN CONNECT TO AND OVERRIDE THE CONTROLS OF THE PLANE. IF MINDFULL CAN'T STOP BOTH PLANES, WE'LL HAVE TO RAM THIS PLANE INTO THE OTHER ONE.

ARE YOU FREAKIN' CRAZY?? YOU'LL KILL ALL THE PASSENGERS IN BOTH PLANES! INCLUDING US!

LOOK, WE CAN'T LET EITHER PLANE HIT THOSE TOWERS! IF YOU'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA IN THE NEXT TWO MINUTES I'M ALL EARS, HOCUS. TELL ME HOW ELSE WE CAN SAVE THE TOWERS. IN THE MEANTIME, IF MINDFULL AND WIRELESS CAN'T DO IT, I'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO USE THE ENERGY IN THIS PLANE TO CONTROL IT MYSELF!

IN OTHER CHALLENGES, I'D LET OTHERS TAKE THE LEAD, WHILE I JUST SHOWED OFF MY FIGHTING SKILLS.

I WAS ALWAYS SCRATCHING AND CLAWING.



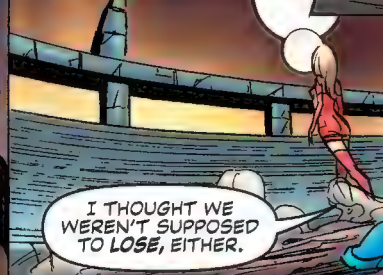
SHOWING THAT I'D
KEEP WORKING. KEEP
PUSHING, NEVER GIVE
UP, NO MATTER WHAT
THE ODDS.



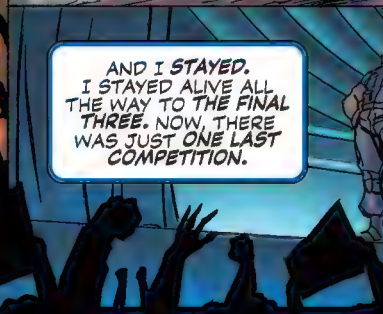
APPARENTLY,
AMERICA RESPECTED
ME FOR THAT.



I THOUGHT WE
WEREN'T SUPPOSED
TO USE POWERS ON
THIS ONE.

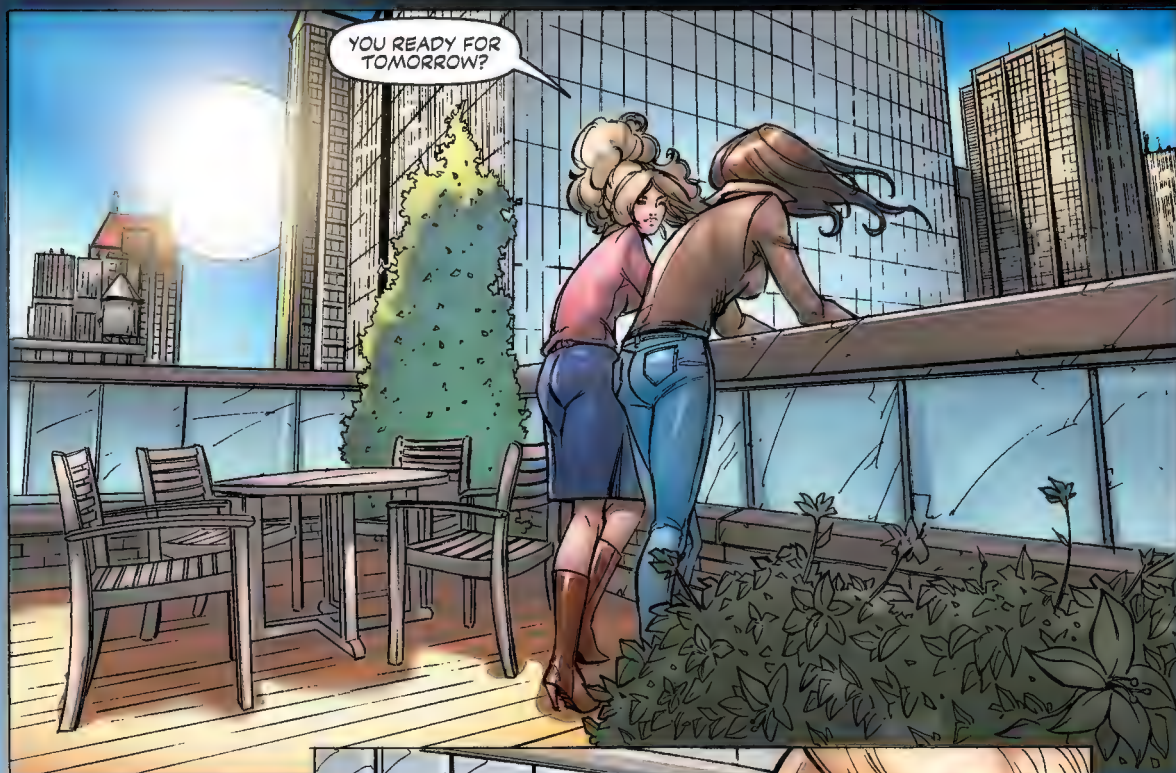


I THOUGHT WE
WEREN'T SUPPOSED
TO LOSE, EITHER.

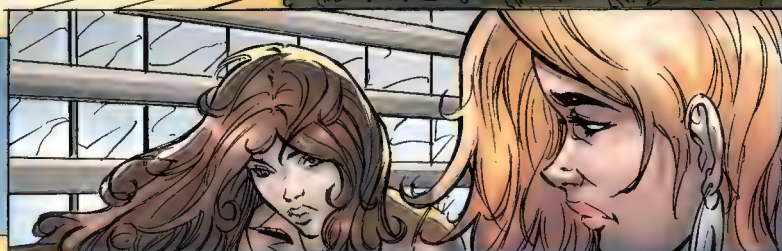


AND I STAYED.
I STAYED ALIVE ALL
THE WAY TO THE FINAL
THREE. NOW, THERE
WAS JUST ONE LAST
COMPETITION.

AMERICAN
IDOL



YOU READY FOR TOMORROW?



YEAH, I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF BAD CRAP IN MY LIFE, TOO. I HIT **ROCK BOTTOM** MORE TIMES THAN I COULD TELL YOU. AND PEOPLE **STILL** THINK I'M A TOTAL LOON.

BUT EACH TIME I SEE YOU OUT THERE-- EACH TIME I SEE YOU TAKING SOME CRAZY RISK AND ENDING UP TRIUMPHANT?

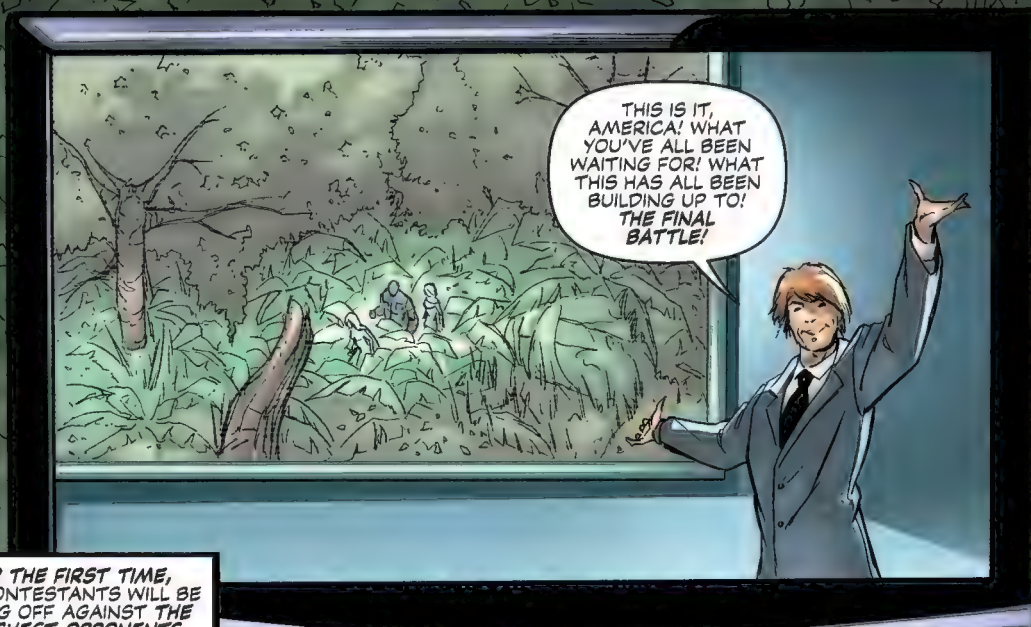
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE OUT THERE FIGHTING FOR ME. AND FOR ALL THE OTHER SAD, DEPRESSED PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO WISH THEY COULD PULL THEMSELVES UP BY THE BOOTSTRAPS THE WAY THAT YOU HAVE.

THE OTHER JUDGES AND I WILL BE ROOTING FOR YOU TOMORROW.

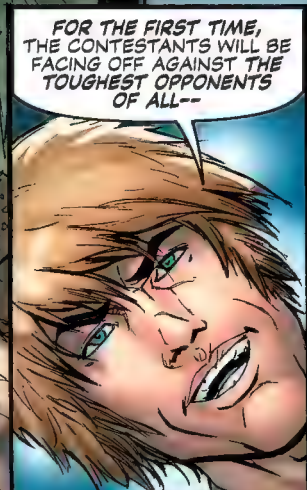
EVEN LEWIS.

GET SOME REST.





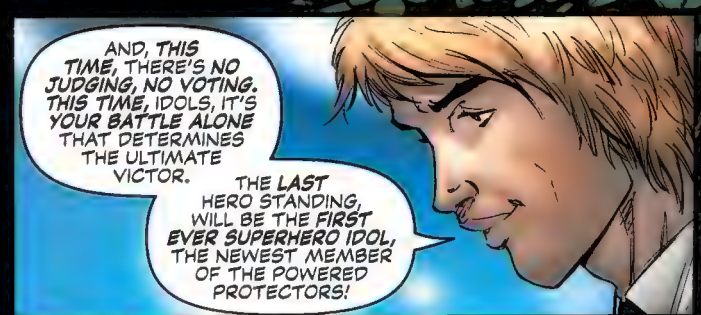
THIS IS IT, AMERICA! WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! WHAT THIS HAS ALL BEEN BUILDING UP TO! THE FINAL BATTLE!



FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE CONTESTANTS WILL BE FACING OFF AGAINST THE TOUGHEST OPPONENTS OF ALL--



...EACH OTHER!



AND, THIS TIME, THERE'S NO JUDGING, NO VOTING. THIS TIME, IDOLS, IT'S YOUR BATTLE ALONE THAT DETERMINES THE ULTIMATE VICTOR.

THE LAST HERO STANDING, WILL BE THE FIRST EVER SUPERHERO IDOL, THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE POWERED PROTECTORS!



AND... GO!!



OKAY, LESLIE. KEEP IT TOGETHER. FOCUS. GOTTA GET UP IN THE AIR. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FLY. WHEN THE PRESENT USES HER POWER TO STOP TIME, I'VE GOTTA BE ABOVE HER REACH.

OH, AND IDOLS... ONE THING I FORGOT TO MENTION.

"A SLIGHT TWIST, WE'RE PLACING A HERO NAMED DRAIN IN THERE WITH YOU."

"AS THE NAME IMPLIES, HE DRAINS YOUR POWERS AWAY. SO, FOR THIS CHALLENGE, YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY..."

"...POWERLESS!"



YES, FROM THE
MOMENT I MADE
IT INTO THE TOP
TEN, IT WAS ALL
JUST A BLUR.

AND NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE
I'M GOING TO BECOME
JUST A BLUR AS WELL...

END ISSUE THREE.



BE A STAR...

...A SUPERSTAR!

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WRITER
PASQUALE GUALANO
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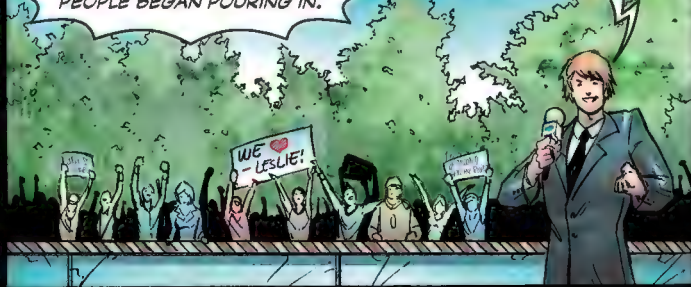
Glory Daze

WRITTEN BY DAVID SCHWARTZ & TERRY L. ROBERTS

WHEN WORD LEAKED OUT ON TWITTER THAT THIS WOODED EXPANSE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK IS WHERE THE LIVE SUPERHERO IDOL FINALE COMPETITION IS TAKING PLACE, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BEGAN POURING IN.

THE CROWD NOW NUMBERS NEARLY 80,000, AND IT CONTINUES TO GROW. RIOT POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED IN TO KEEP THE CROWDS AT BAY.

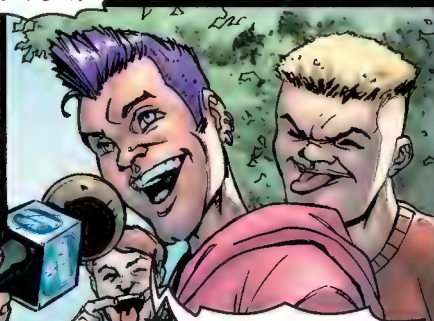
THERE'S PROBABLY LITTLE TO NO CHANCE THAT THEY'D BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY GET A GLIMPSE OF THE FINAL THREE COMPETITORS, TROOPER, JOULE AND THE PRESENT, BATTLING IT OUT, SO WHY ARE THEY ALL HERE? WE ASKED A FEW OF THEM THAT VERY QUESTION.



I, LIKE, JUST HAD TO BE CLOSE TO THIS.

AND YOU DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE NOT GETTING TO ACTUALLY SEE IT?

OH, WE'RE TOTALLY TWO-ING IT.

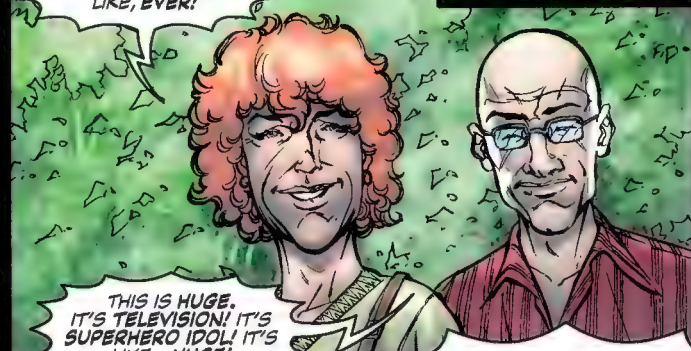


THIS IS, UM, THE BIGGEST THING TO HAPPEN IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF AMERICA, LIKE, EVER!

THIS IS HUGE. IT'S TELEVISION! IT'S SUPERHERO IDOL! IT'S LIKE... HUGE!

THE MLT NETWORK HAS GENEROUSLY TRUCKED IN A GIANT TV SCREEN, WHICH IS NOW BEING SET UP SO THAT THE CROWD CAN ACTUALLY SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BATTLE ZONE. AND, SOME MEMBERS OF THE CROWD ARE ABLE TO STREAM THE SHOW LIVE ON THEIR PHONES OR TABLETS. BUT, MOST OF THEM HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FINAL BATTLE.

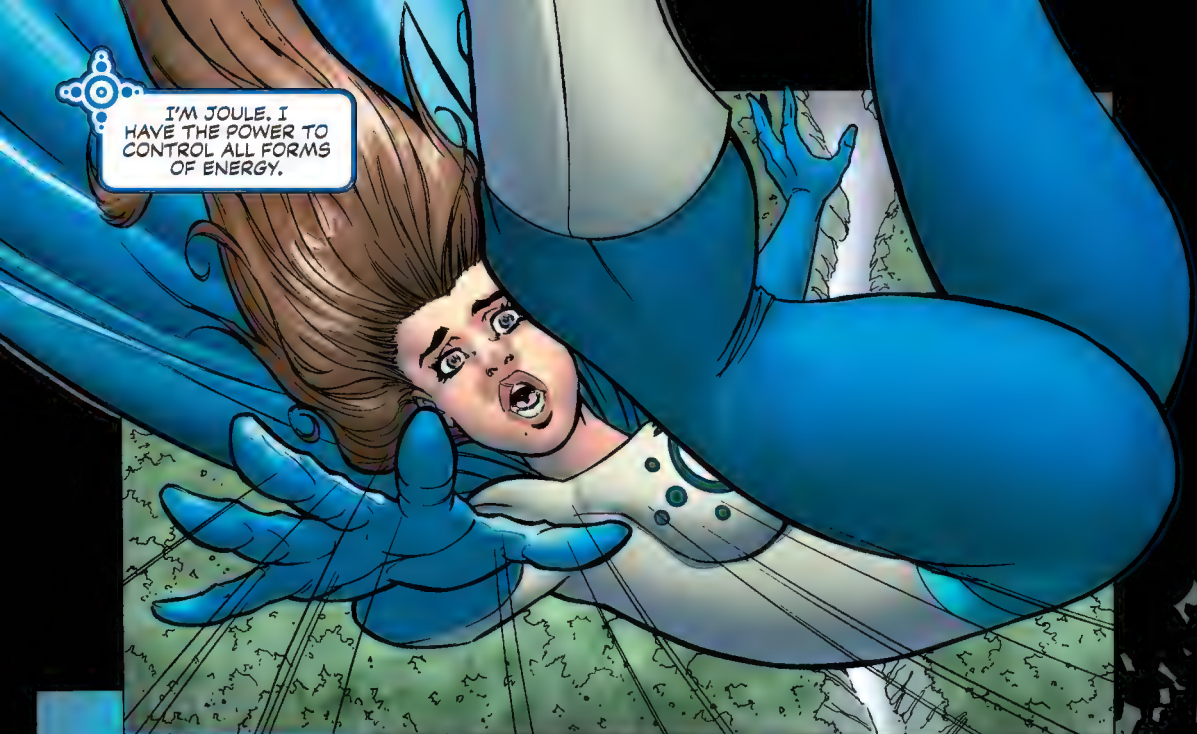
DUDE, FORTY YEARS FROM NOW, I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL MY GRANDKIDS THAT I WAS HERE WHEN THE FIRST SUPERHERO IDOL WAS CROWNED.



FOR ALL THEY KNOW, ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS COULD ALREADY BE GETTING KILLED IN THERE!



I'M JOULE. I
HAVE THE POWER TO
CONTROL ALL FORMS
OF ENERGY.

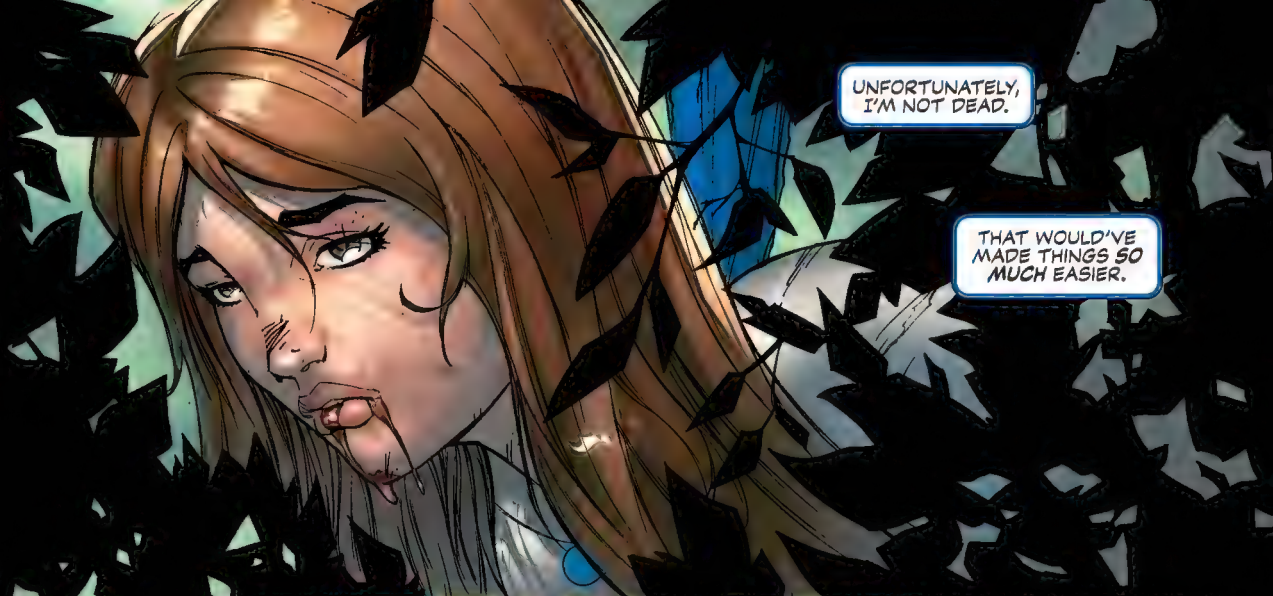


NORMALLY,
I CAN USE THAT
POWER TO FLY.

I WAS FIFTY
FEET UP IN THE
AIR WHEN, SUDDENLY,
THE SUPERHERO IDOL
PRODUCERS SOMEHOW
CUT OFF OUR
POWERS.

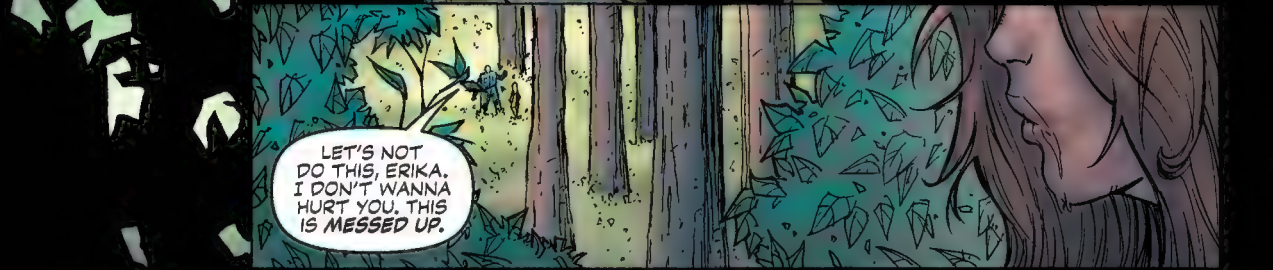
POOF!

NICE TWIST.

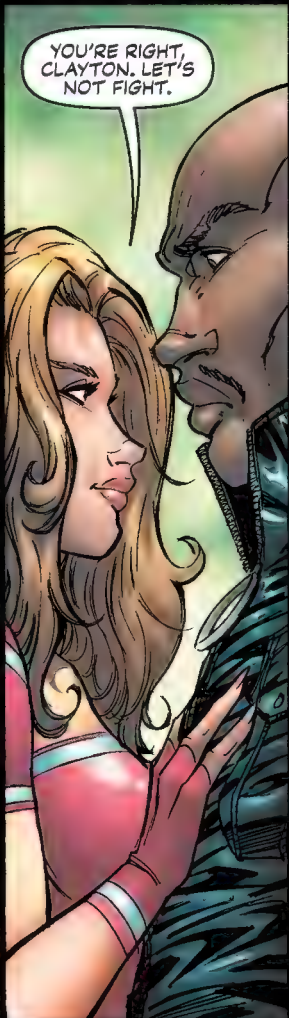


UNFORTUNATELY,
I'M NOT DEAD.

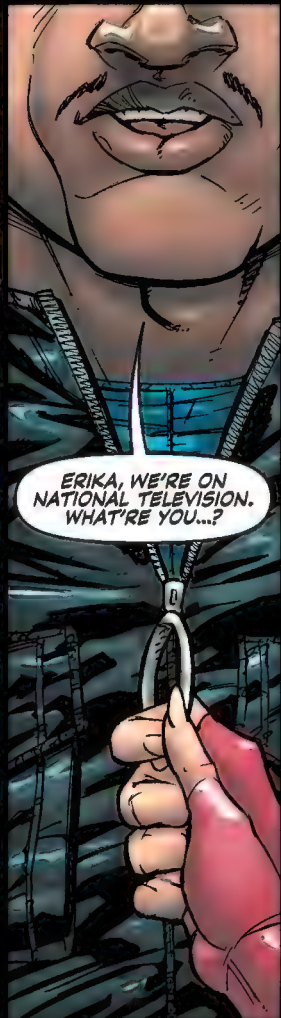
THAT WOULD'VE
MADE THINGS SO
MUCH EASIER.



LET'S NOT
DO THIS, ERIKA.
I DON'T WANNA
HURT YOU. THIS
IS MESSED UP.



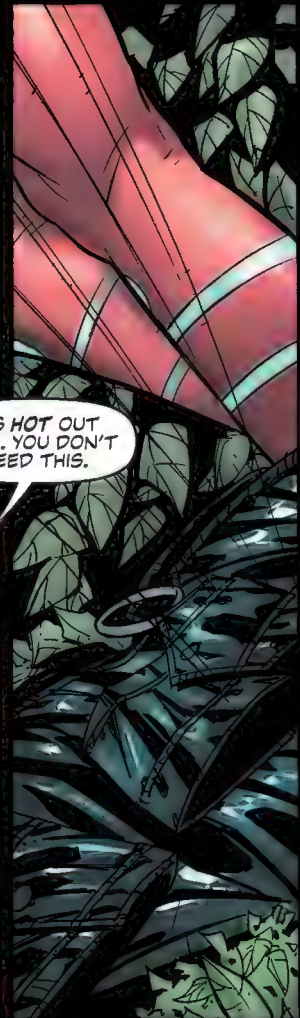
YOU'RE RIGHT,
CLAYTON. LET'S
NOT FIGHT.



ERIKA, WE'RE ON
NATIONAL TELEVISION.
WHAT'RE YOU...?



IT'S HOT OUT
HERE. YOU DON'T
NEED THIS.





ERIKA! I'M
NOT GONNA
FI--

AAARGH!



HOLY CRAP!

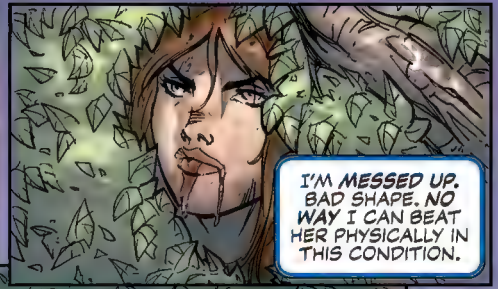
WHEN TROOPER
WAS A COP, HE WAS SHOT
IN THE BACK. PARALYZED.
HE FOUGHT HIS WAY BACK.
THAT BULLET-PROOF VEST
WASN'T JUST FOR SHOW.
IT PROTECTED HIS SPINE.
SHE MAY HAVE JUST
MADE THAT FORMER
PARALYSIS PERMANENT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DID
THAT. KNEW SHE WAS CRUEL. DIDN'T
REALIZE SHE WAS BRUTAL.



ALRIGHT, LESLIE, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

I KNOW YOU'RE STILL ALIVE. THIS PLACE'D BE CRAWLING WITH PARAMEDICS AND NEWSCASTERS IF YOU'D DIED.



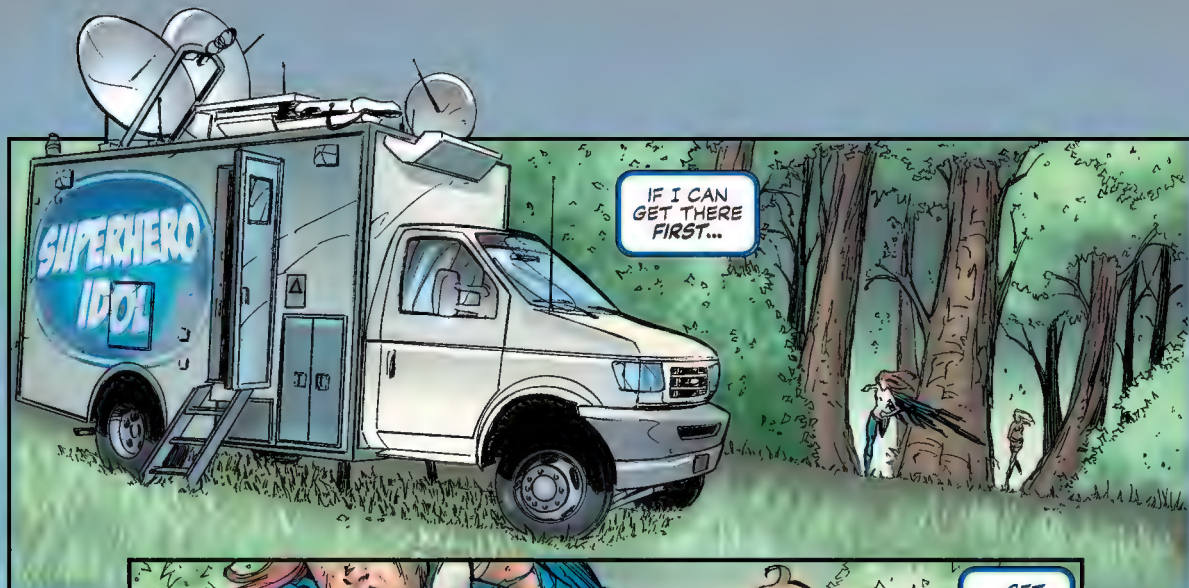
I'M MESSED UP. BAD SHAPE. NO WAY I CAN BEAT HER PHYSICALLY IN THIS CONDITION.



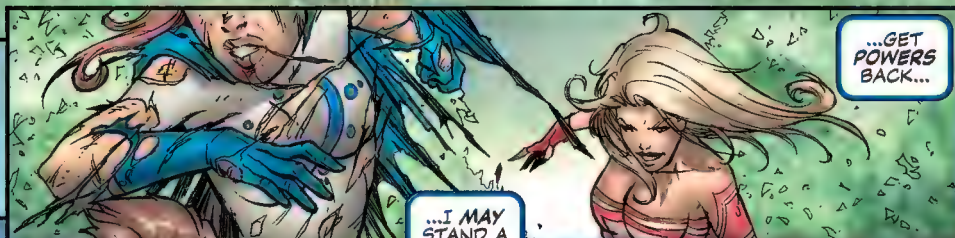
SO, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN CHANGE THE GAME.

WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING TO BLOCK OUR POWERS, I'M BETTING THAT IT'S COMING FROM THAT CONTROL VAN.

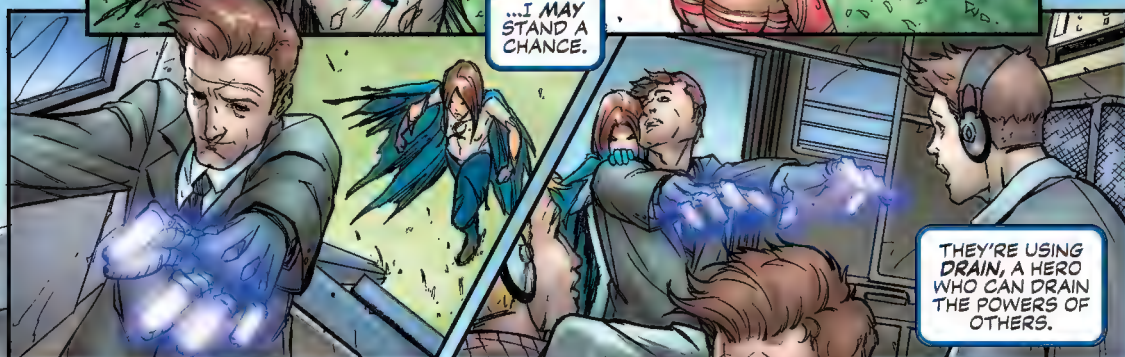
THUD



IF I CAN
GET THERE
FIRST...



...GET
POWERS
BACK...



...I MAY
STAND A
CHANCE.

THEY'RE USING
DRAIN, A HERO
WHO CAN DRAIN
THE POWERS OF
OTHERS.



I'LL
TAKE BOTH
OUT.



POWERS ARE BACK.

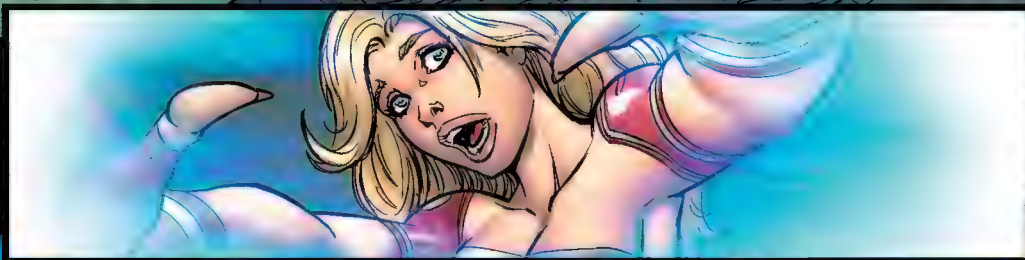


TIME TO END
THIS! JUST HOPE
I'M NOT...

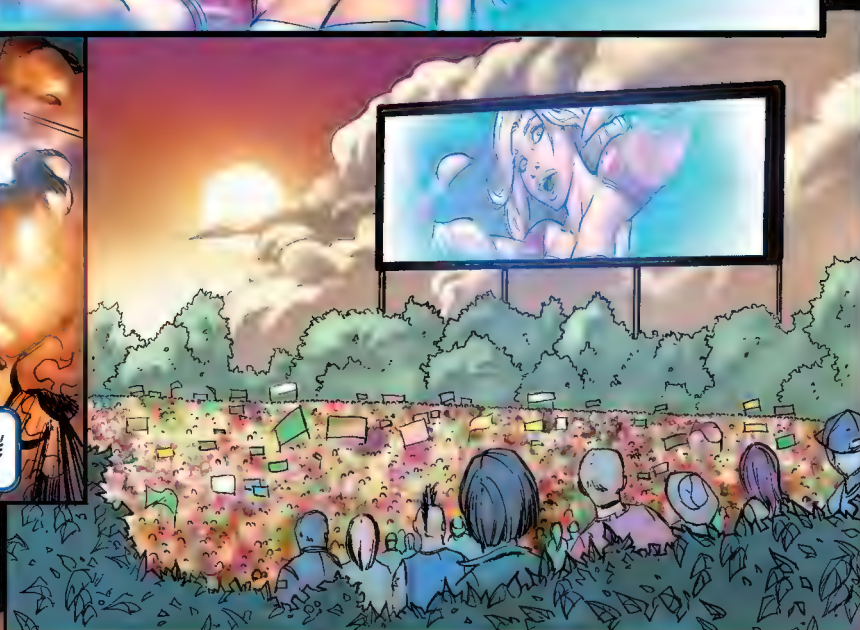




...TOO LATE. SHE'S USED HER POWER TO STOP TIME. BUT SHE CAN'T CONTROL HOW LONG THE EFFECT'LL LAST. JUST HAVE TO HOPE HER TIME-STOP DOESN'T LAST LONG...



...AND TIME RE-STARTS, BEFORE SHE CAN EVADE MY BLAST.



ALRIGHT!

YEAH!

THAT WAS AWESOME!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOUR SUPERHERO IDOL... JOULE!!

THE OTHERS WOULD'VE LOVED THIS MOMENT. ANY OF THOSE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO AUDITIONED WOULD'VE CONSIDERED THIS THE PINNACLE OF EXISTENCE.

BUT, FOR ME? I FELT NOTHING.

I FAKED IT, PRETENDED TO SMILE AND BE HAPPY, PLAYED THE GAME, JUST AS I'D BEEN DOING ALL ALONG.

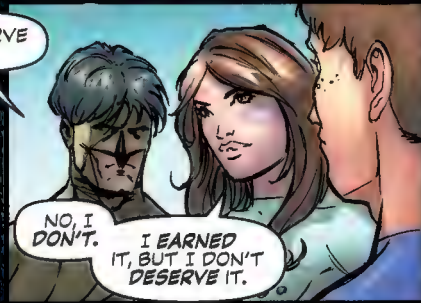
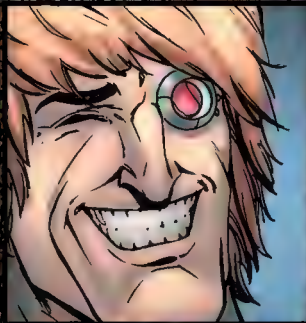
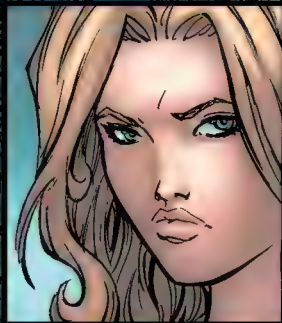
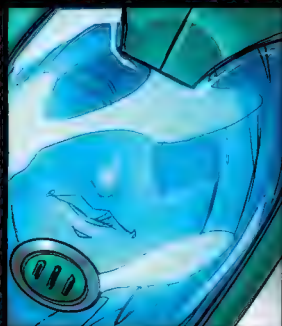


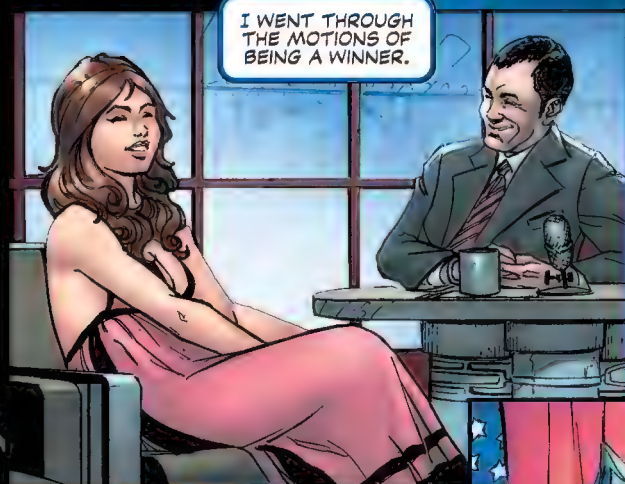
FOR ME, THIS WASN'T THE PRIZE, IT WAS JUST A STEP ALONG THE WAY, A STEP TOWARDS MY ULTIMATE GOAL OF REVENGE AGAINST STASIS.



I JUST FELT BAD FOR MY COMPETITORS. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM DESERVED THIS MORE THAN I EVER DID.

IT FELT LIKE I HAD TEN ANGRY PAIRS OF EYES BURNING INTO MY BACK. (NOT LITERALLY; GIVEN THAT THERE ARE SO MANY SUPER-POWERS IN THE WORLD, I GUESS I NEED TO BE CLEAR ON THAT.)





I WENT THROUGH
THE MOTIONS OF
BEING A WINNER.

TRIED TO ENJOY IT,
TRIED TO GET LOST IN
IT, BUT I COULDN'T.



IS THAT AWFUL?
UNGRATEFUL? TO HAVE
THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET,
ACHIEVE SOMETHING HUGE,
AND, YET, TO STILL FEEL SO
EMPTY AND LOST AND
WORTHLESS INSIDE?

I DIDN'T EVEN CARE THAT THE POWERED PROTECTORS, MY NEW, SUPPOSEDLY SUPPORTIVE TEAMMATES, HATED MY VERY EXISTENCE AND WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

YOU'RE A CHILD!
YOU'RE NOT READY
FOR THIS!

STAY HERE.
WATCH THE MONITORS.
CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM OR
SOMETHING. WE'LL BE OFF
SAVING THE WORLD.

OF COURSE, NOT ALL OF
THEM WERE TERRIBLE.

DON'T WORRY.
THEY'RE USED TO
CONTROLLING THEIR OWN
FATE, TO BENDING STEEL WITH
THEIR BARE HANDS, AND BENDING
THE WORLD TO THEIR WHIMS.
THEY DON'T LIKE HAVING
ANYTHING FORCED
UPON THEM.

LOOK, DETERRENT,
WE CAN'T BE DOING THIS
FOREVER. SHE'S PART OF
THE NEXT GENERATION. WE
SHOULD AT LEAST BE
TRAINING HER.

HANG
IN THERE. PROVE
YOURSELF, LITTLE
BY LITTLE.

THEY'LL COME
AROUND.

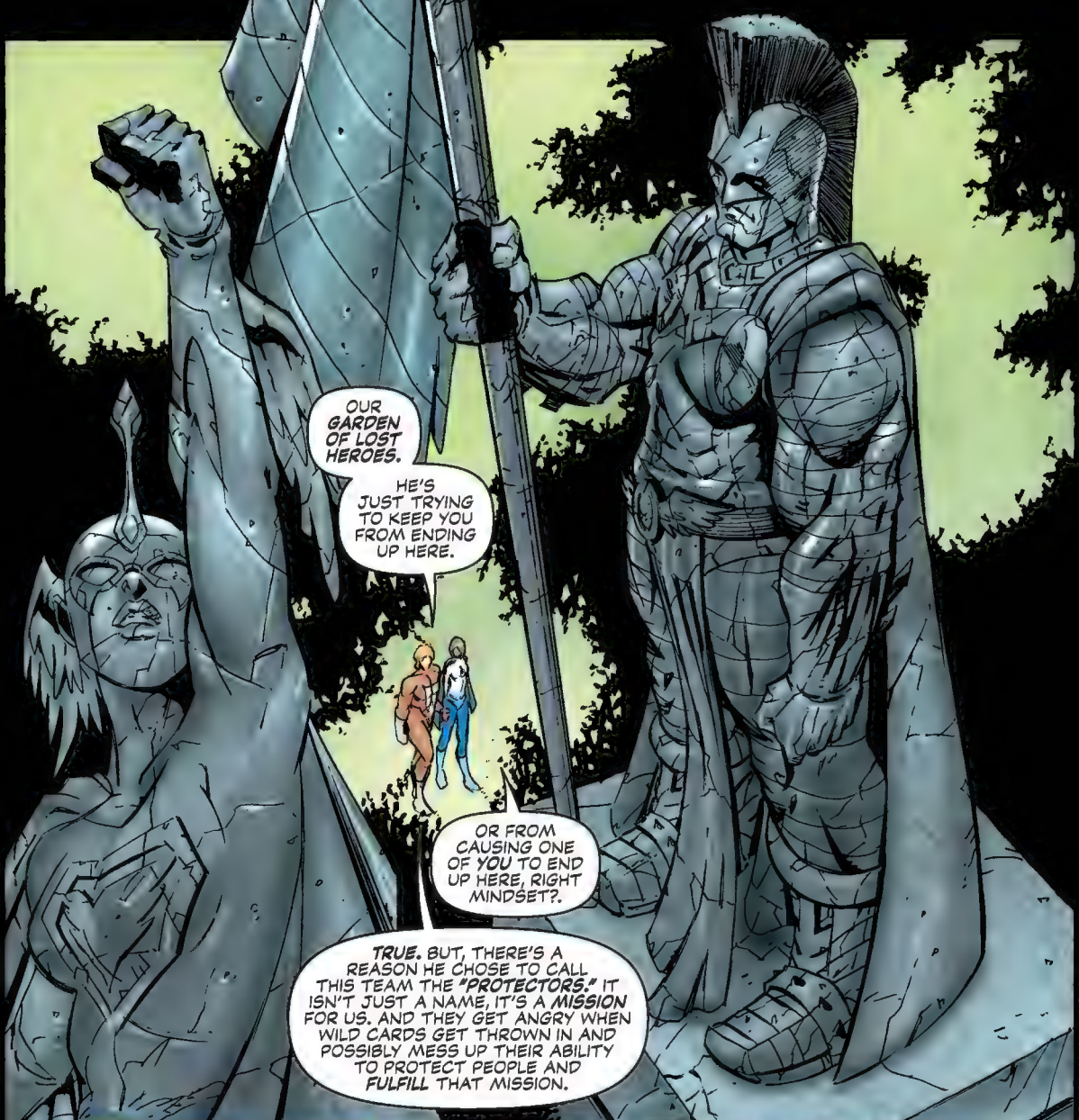
I'VE
ALREADY PROVEN
MYSELF.

KID, WE'RE NEVER DONE
PROVING OURSELVES. LIFE IS
ABOUT CONTINUALLY PROVING
YOURSELF, CONTINUALLY IM-
PROVING YOURSELF.

YOU TRAIN HER
THEN, ACE. SOME OF US
ARE TOO BUSY TO BE BOTHERED.
THEY SHOULD GET THEIR TRAINING
IN THE INDIE WORLD, AND THEN
ONLY COME TO US WHEN
THEY'RE READY.

I COULDN'T'VE
CARED LESS.

COME HERE. I
WANNA SHOW YOU
SOMETHING.



OUR GARDEN OF LOST HEROES.

HE'S JUST TRYING TO KEEP YOU FROM ENDING UP HERE.

OR FROM CAUSING ONE OF YOU TO END UP HERE, RIGHT MINDSET?

TRUE. BUT, THERE'S A REASON HE CHOSE TO CALL THIS TEAM THE "PROTECTORS." IT ISN'T JUST A NAME, IT'S A MISSION FOR US. AND THEY GET ANGRY WHEN WILD CARDS GET THROWN IN AND POSSIBLY MESS UP THEIR ABILITY TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND FULFILL THAT MISSION.



SO, JUST TAKE MY ADVICE. LAY BACK, AND GIVE IT TIME. LET THEM SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING STUPID.

RIGHT?



IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT STASIS STEPPED UP HIS TERRORIST CAMPAIGN.

HIS THOUSANDS OF FOLLOWERS SEEMED TO HAVE SPREAD OUT NATIONWIDE...

...AND THEIR ATTACKS WERE BECOMING MORE FREQUENT, MORE VIOLENT.

ALL SIGNS POINTED TO SOMETHING BIG. THEN CAME THIS...



MY FELLOW
CITIZENS OF THE
WORLD.

I COME
TO YOU TODAY TO
WARN YOU TO MAKE
PREPARATIONS.

FOR THE LAST DECADE,
MY FELLOW REVOLUTIONARIES AND
I HAVE WAGED A WAR. A WAR AGAINST
INJUSTICE, AGAINST GREED, AGAINST THE
WAYS THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS SOLD
ITSELF, SOLD ALL OF US, OUT TO CORPORATE
INTERESTS. POISONED OUR FOOD, KEPT US
FAT AND LAZY. GIVEN CORPORATIONS MORE
AND MORE POWER TO INFLUENCE OUR
ELECTIONS. SOLD US ON A MULTITUDE OF
"PADS" AND "PODS" AND OTHER FOOLISH
PRODUCTS THAT ONLY DISTRACT US
FROM WHAT'S TRUE AND HONEST
IN LIFE.

SADLY, OUR
REVOLUTIONARY
STRATEGIES UP TO
THIS POINT HAVE HAD
LITTLE LASTING
EFFECT.

WE SACRIFICE THE
LIFE OF ONE IRRESPONSIBLE
CORPORATE CEO, AND ANOTHER
RISES TO TAKE HIS OR HER PLACE.
DESTROY THE HEADQUARTERS OF
ONE GREEDY INVESTMENT BANK,
AND ANOTHER STEPS IN TO
TAKE ITS CUSTOMER
BASE.

CLEARLY, ALL WE'VE
DONE IS CREATED VACUUMS THAT
OTHER UNETHICAL INDUSTRIALISTS
RUSH IN TO FILL. DESPITE ALL OF OUR
EFFORTS WE'VE, ESSENTIALLY, BEEN
PLAYING A GIANT GAME OF
WHACK-A-MOLE.

BUT, NO MORE.

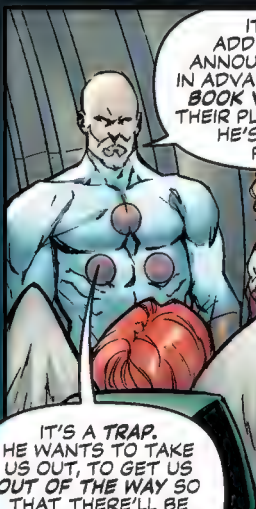
IN FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS WE WILL BE TAKING
MUCH MORE DECISIVE, WIDER-
RANGING AND IRREVERSIBLE
ACTION THAT WILL DESTROY
THE ENTIRE WORLD
ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

IN DOING
SO, WE WILL
BE RETURNING
YOUR NATION
TO YOU.

THE TRANSITION
WILL BE DIFFICULT. EVENTUALLY,
IT WILL MAKE US ALL BETTER,
STRONGER, AND REMIND US OF WHAT'S
TRULY IMPORTANT IN LIFE. NOT THESE
TVS AND SMART-PHONES THAT WE'VE
ALL BECOME GLUED TO BUT, RATHER,
OUR FAMILIES, OUR FRIENDS, OUR
COMMUNITIES, OUR RELATIONSHIPS
TO EACH OTHER AND TO
OUR PLANET.

HONESTY. FAIRNESS.
SELF-RELIANCE. IT'S TIME
TO REFOCUS AND REPAIR OUR
WORLD. AND, IF OUR GOVERNMENTS
ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO
ACCOMPLISH THAT, THEN I, AND
MY COLLEAGUES HERE, WILL.

STAY STRONG,
MY FRIENDS. THE
REVOLUTION IS COMING.
GOOD NIGHT, GOOD LUCK,
AND MAY GOD BLESS THE
NEW UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.



IT DOESN'T
ADD UP. HE NEVER
ANNOUNCES HIS PLANS
IN ADVANCE. ONLY COMIC
BOOK VILLAINS REVEAL
THEIR PLANS IN ADVANCE.
HE'S TOO SMART
FOR THAT.



THE VIDEO
SOURCE'S I.P. ADDRESS IS
COMPLETELY TRACEABLE.
WE'VE GOT A DEFINITE
LOCATION LOCK.

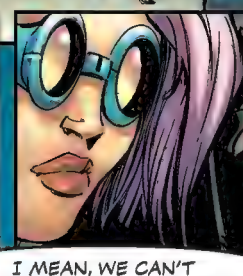


HE'D NEVER
DO THAT, EITHER.
WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE
TO GEO-TARGET ANY
OF HIS POSTS.



IT'S A TRAP.
HE WANTS TO TAKE
US OUT, TO GET US
OUT OF THE WAY SO
THAT THERE'LL BE
NO ORGANIZED TEAM
TO INTERFERE WITH
HIS PLANS.

EVEN SO,
THAT LOCATION
INFORMATION, IS,
WELL, IT'S THE ONLY
LEAD WE'VE GOT. WE
SHOULD GO AFTER
HIM... AT LEAST
INVESTIGATE.



I MEAN, WE CAN'T
JUST SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING
WHILE HE THROWS THE WORLD
INTO ANARCHY, RIGHT?



MY HEART WAS
BEATING OUT OF
MY CHEST AS I
LEAPT INTO THE
FIELD WITH THEM
FOR THE FIRST
TIME.

IT WAS MY FIRST TIME POTENTIALLY ENTERING A TRUE, REAL-WORLD, NON-REALITY-SHOW BATTLE...

...WELL, AT LEAST, THE FIRST TIME SINCE I UTTERLY FAILED IN THE MIDST OF ONE AS A CHILD.

THE FACT THAT IT ALSO MEANT FACING OFF AGAINST STASIS, THE MAN WHO GUTTED ME AND WRECKED ME FOR LIFE, ONLY MADE THE PRESSURE MORE INTENSE.

THIS IS WHAT IT HAD ALL BEEN LEADING UP TO. THIS MOMENT. THIS OPPORTUNITY. NOT FOR HEROISM, OR FOR PROVING MYSELF TO THE PROTECTORS. SCREW THAT.

THIS WAS MY OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE.

MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST, I WORRIED THAT I MIGHT EXPLODE.

HERE'S WHERE THE SIGNAL ORIGINATED.

REMEMBER, WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR INVESTIGATION AND RECONNAISSANCE, NOT TO--

THERE!





AND HERE I GO,
LEAPING INTO THE
FIRE, DOING SOMETHING
I KNOW IS INCREDIBLY
FOOLHARDY AND
STUPID.

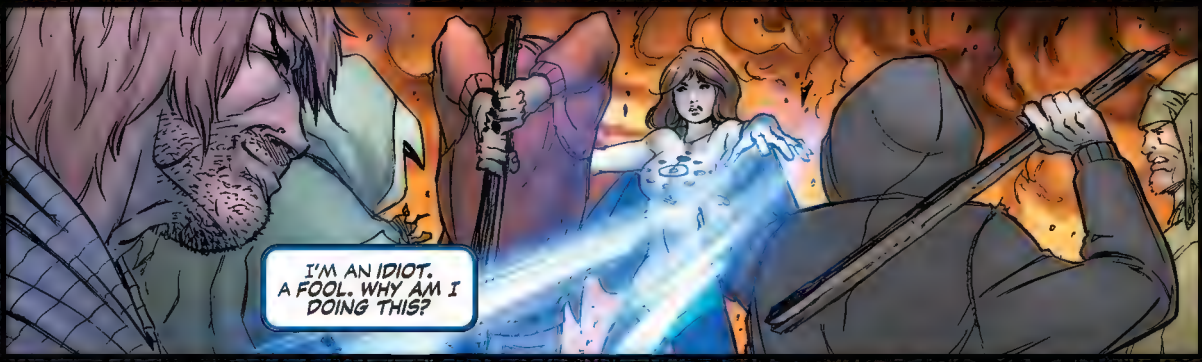


I KNOW I SHOULD
THINK THIS OUT. I HAVE THE
WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER
TEAM BEHIND ME.

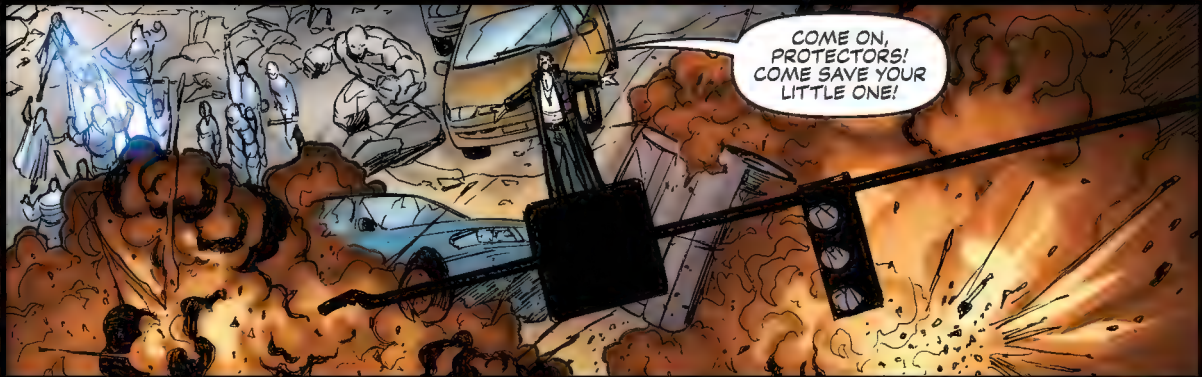


I SHOULD BE USING
THAT RESOURCE. I SHOULD BE
PLANNING AND STRATEGIZING
AND LEADING LIKE I DID ON
THE SHOW.

INSTEAD, I JUST
LEAP IN BLINDLY.



I'M AN IDIOT.
A FOOL. WHY AM I
DOING THIS?

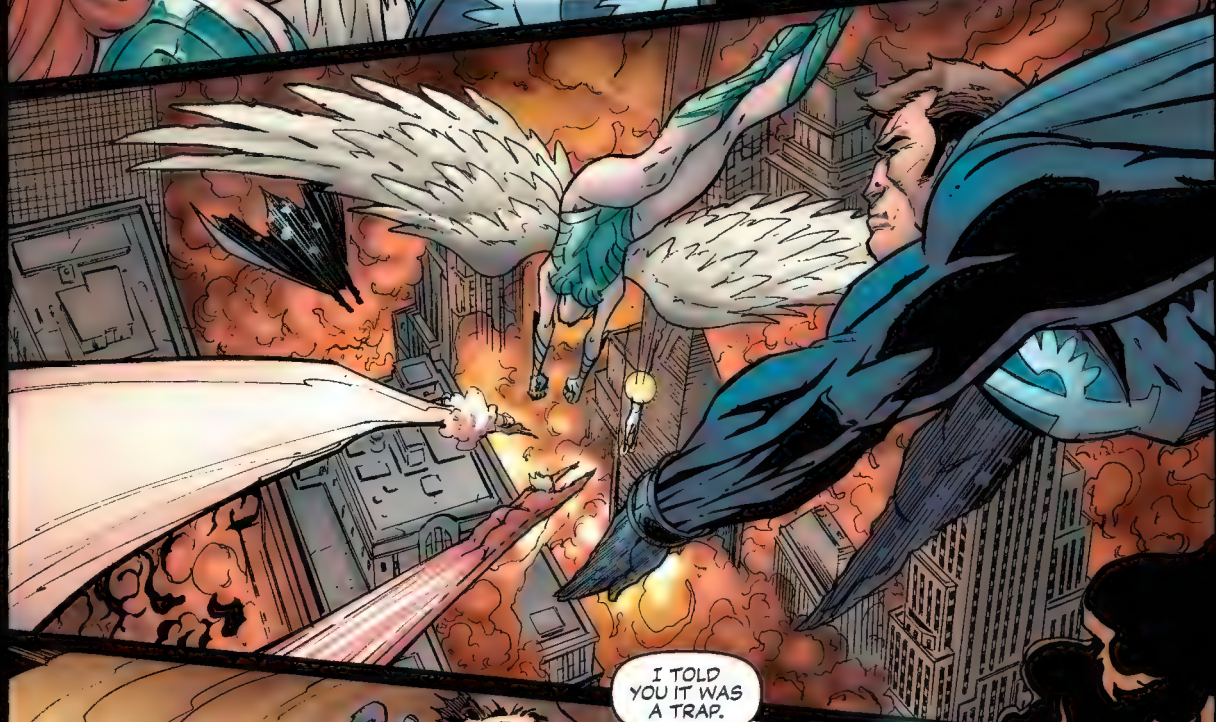


COME ON,
PROTECTORS!
COME SAVE YOUR
LITTLE ONE!

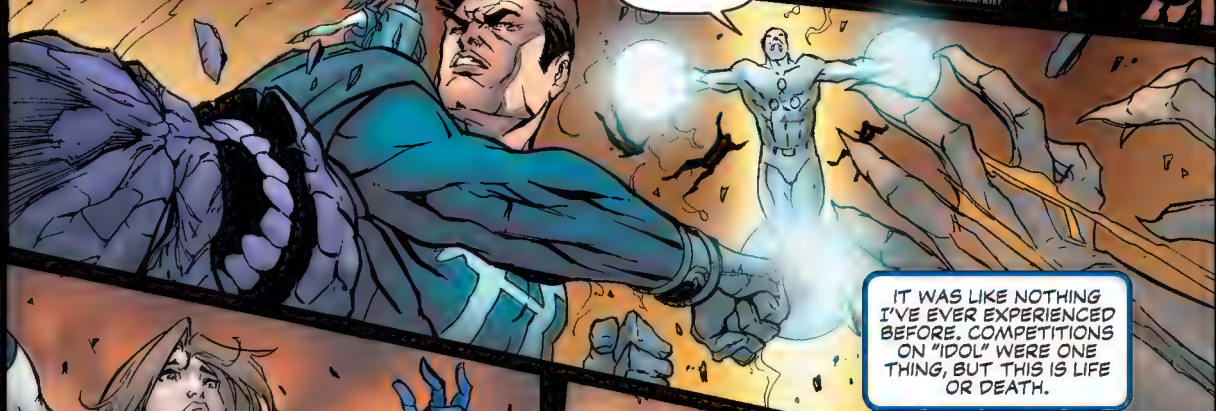


DAMMIT!

CAN WE
JUST LET HER DIE?
PLEASE?

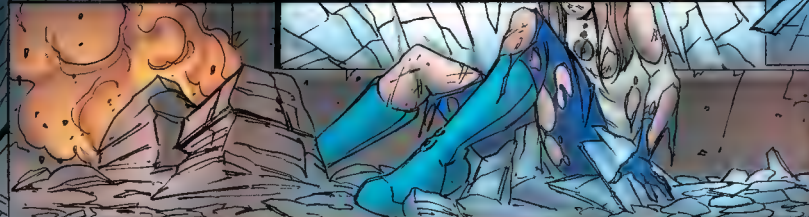


I TOLD
YOU IT WAS
A TRAP.



IT WAS LIKE NOTHING
I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED
BEFORE. COMPETITIONS
ON 'IDOL' WERE ONE
THING, BUT THIS IS LIFE
OR DEATH.

BRUTAL. VIOLENT.





...I'M TOLD
THAT THE ENTIRE
PROTECTORS TEAM
MAY NOW BE
LOST.

AND, WE'RE
GETTING UNCONFIRMED
REPORTS FROM SOURCES
INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT
THAT STASIS MAY HAVE
HAD A HAND IN KILLING
JOULE'S PARENTS...

COULD SHE HAVE
BEEN LYING TO US ALL
ALONG? COULD THIS HAVE BEEN
ALL A BIG PLOT SHE COOKED UP
TO GET HER REVENGE? DID SHE LEAD
AMERICA ON, GET US TO BELIEVE
IN HER AND SUPPORT HER UNDER
COMPLETELY FALSE PRETENSES,
NOW POTENTIALLY COSTING
THE PROTECTORS THEIR
LIVES?

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, I HATE
TO SAY THIS, BUT, IF
JOULE IS STILL ALIVE,
HER LIFE IS ABOUT TO
GET INCREDIBLY
UGLY...

END ISSUE FOUR.



DAVID SCHWARTZ
PASQUALE QUALANO
DAVID CURIEL

BE A STAR...

...A SUPERSTAR!

#5
COVER A

Vol. 1

Idolized



DAVID CURIEL
2001



DAVID SCHWARTZ BE A STAR...
PASQUALE QUALANO
DAVID CURIEL

...A SUPERSTAR!

#5
COVER B

VOL. 1

Idolized



blitz

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 DAVID CUNIEL COLORS
- B JEFF KAHN SET/DAVID SCHWARTZ COVER PHOTO
 JEFF KAHN COVER MODEL
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 SPECIAL EFFECTS

Smells Like
 Team Spirit

ILLUSTRATION BY TYNEN SPOCKHORN



I KEEP ASKING MYSELF, "HOW COULD MY LIFE POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE?"

JOULE, THE ENTIRE POWERED PROTECTORS TEAM MAY BE DEAD, DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT?

JOULE, WILL YOUR FAILURE CAUSE A BACKLASH AGAINST SUPERHERO IDOL, PERHAPS THE DOWNFALL OF THE SHOW?

YOU MAY HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY CAUSED THE GREATEST HEROES OF OUR TIME TO BE DEFEATED. WHAT CAN YOU SAY FOR YOURSELF?

LESUE, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO MAYBE BE THE ONLY PROTECTOR LEFT?

JOULE! JOULE! IF YOUR PARENTS WERE ALIVE, WHAT WOULD THEY THINK?

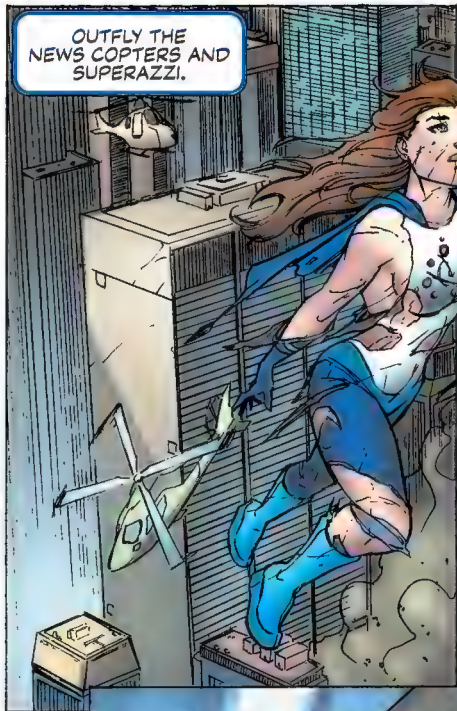
OVER HERE! OVER HERE!

IF STASIS NOW SUCCEEDS IN HIS PLAN TO DESTROY SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT, AND TO TOPPLE THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

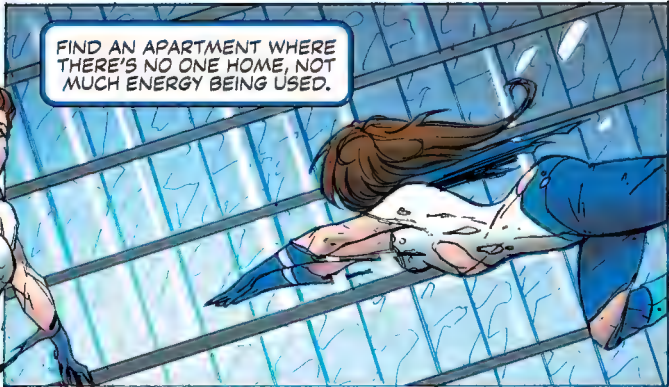
BUT, EACH TIME, I SOMEHOW FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT FAR WORSE THAN I EVEN IMAGINED. TO FIND NEW WAYS TO COMPLETELY DISGUST MYSELF.

GOTTA GET AWAY.





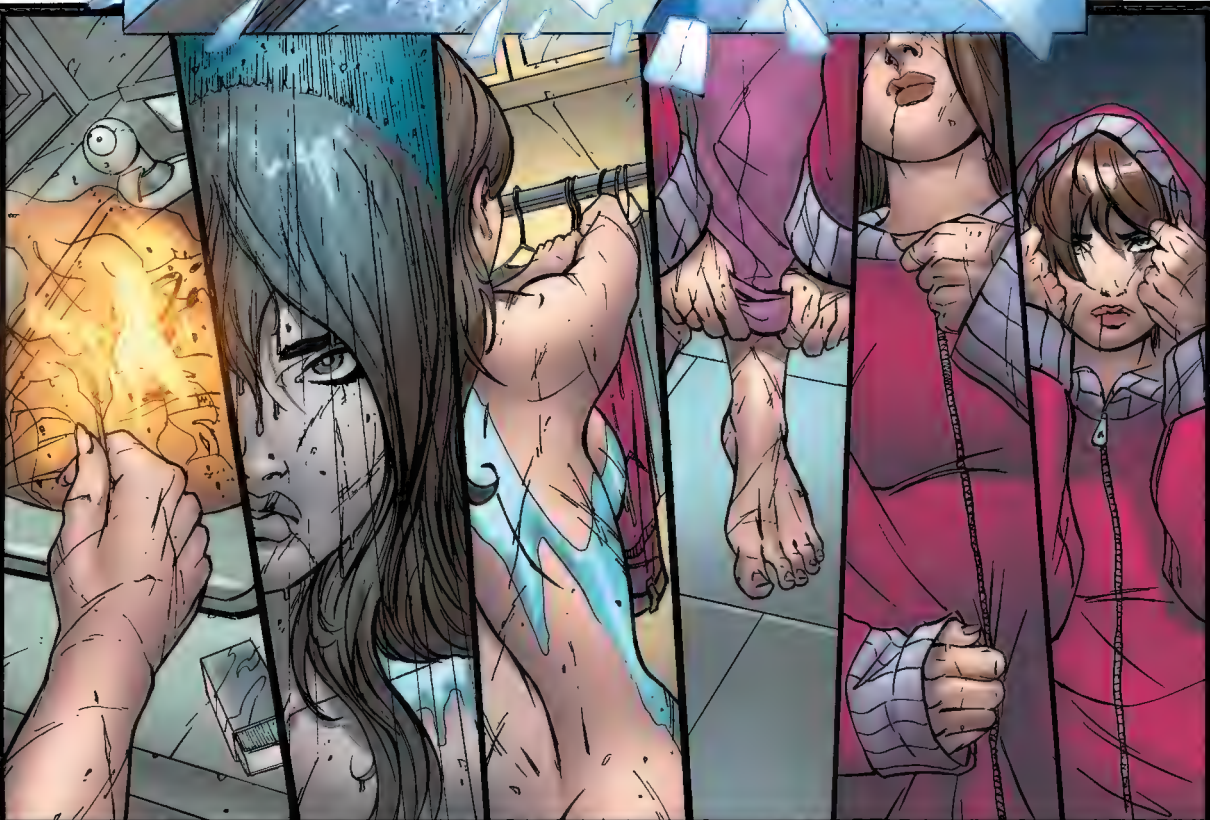
OUTFLY THE
NEWS COPTERS AND
SUPERAZZI.

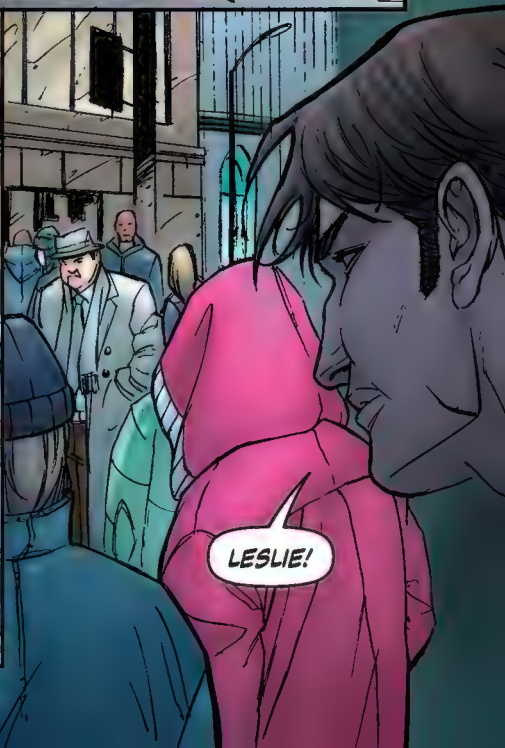
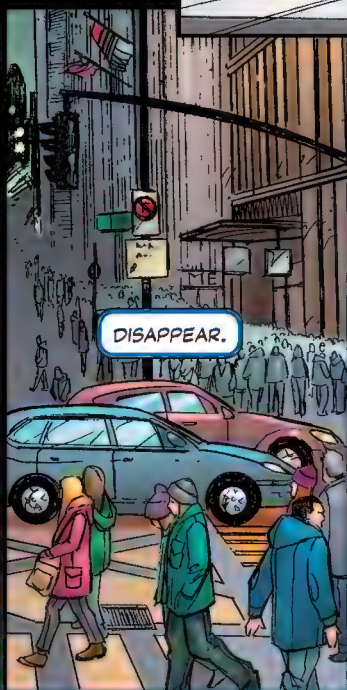


FIND AN APARTMENT WHERE
THERE'S NO ONE HOME, NOT
MUCH ENERGY BEING USED.



BURN THIS
RIDICULOUS
COSTUME.



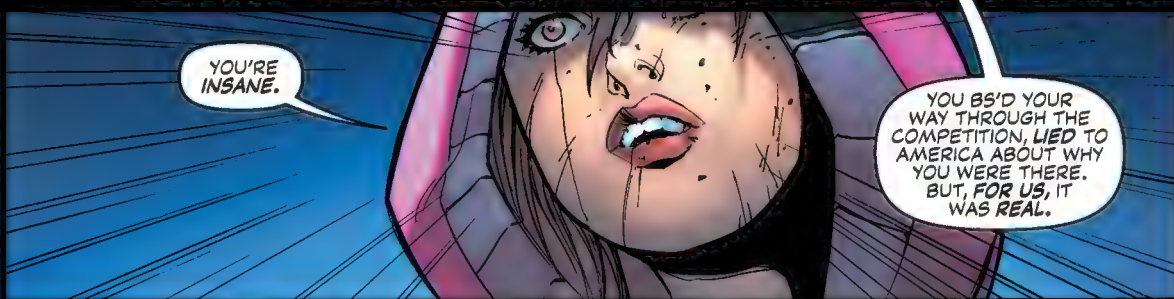
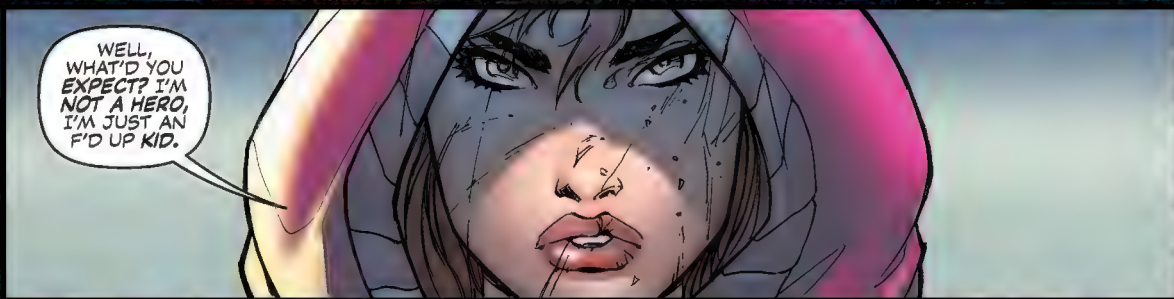


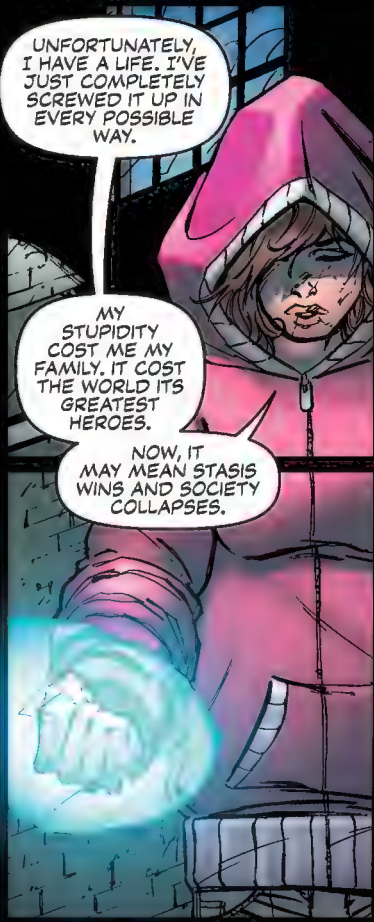


TURN AROUND.



YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY.







FORGET IT, MAN. SCREW HER. WE'LL DO IT WITHOUT HER.



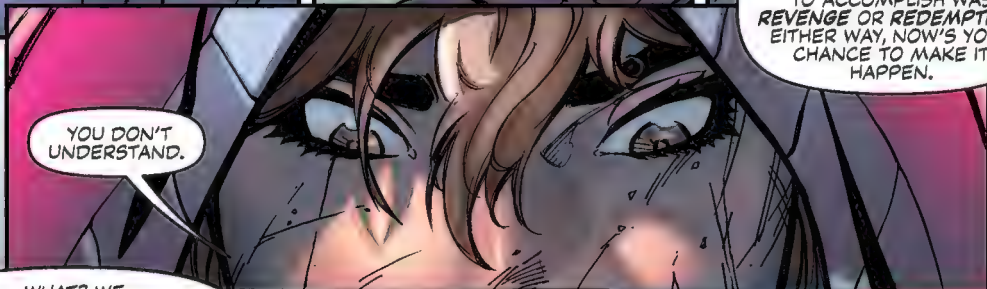
THANK YOU. CAN I--



LESLIE, YOU AUDITIONED BECAUSE AT SOME POINT YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU DESERVED **BETTER** IN LIFE.

THAT YOU COULD WIN, AND TRULY ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, IF YOU WERE JUST GIVEN THE CHANCE.

AND WE DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHETHER WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED TO ACCOMPLISH WAS **REVENGE OR REDEMPTION**. EITHER WAY, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

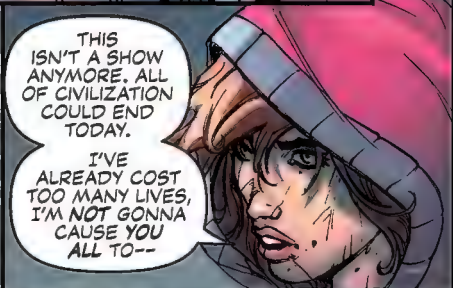


WHAT? WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT? THAT YOUR LIFE SUCKS? YEAH, WELL YOU KNOW WHAT? MY LIFE SUCKS, TOO. I TOTALLY DUG THIS GIRL I MET AT THE AUDITION, AND SHE TURNED OUT TO BE A **COMPLETE PSYCHO SELF-LOATHING COWARD**.

AND SHE TURNED ME DOWN TO BOOT.



CARTER, LET'S MOVE ON.

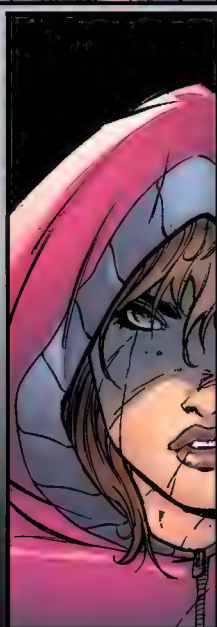


THIS ISN'T A SHOW ANYMORE. ALL OF CIVILIZATION COULD END TODAY.

I'VE ALREADY COST TOO MANY LIVES, I'M NOT GONNA CAUSE YOU ALL TO--



LOOK, WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS. AND, YOU KNOW WHAT? EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN YOURSELF? WE BELIEVE IN YOU.



YOU DIDN'T WIN ON A FLUKE. YOU WON BECAUSE YOU EARNED IT, AND YOU DESERVED IT.

YOU'RE POWERFUL, AND DETERMINED, AND SMART. EVEN WHEN YOU WERE CONFRONTED WITH THOSE PHOTOS-- A CURVEBALL FROM YOUR PAST-- YOU STILL FIGURED OUT A WAY TO TURN IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

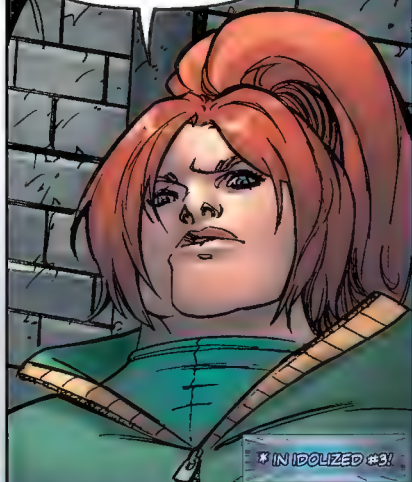
YOU JUST ALWAYS SEEM TO FIND A WAY TO WIN.

PERIOD.



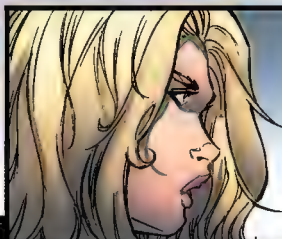
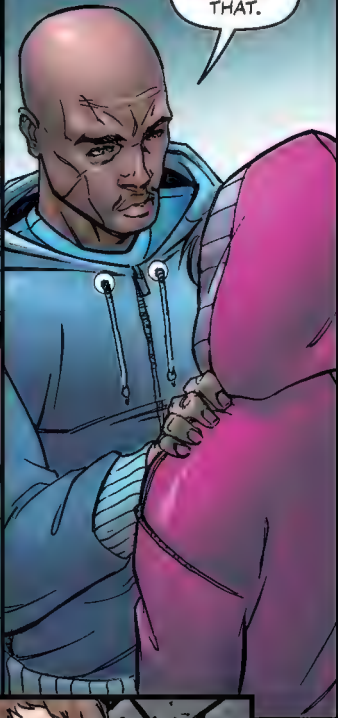
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT 9/11 CHALLENGE THEY THREW AT US, YOU KNOW? CHOOSING BETWEEN OUR OWN LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE. YOU MADE THE TOUGH CHOICE THERE*, NOW IT'S TIME TO MAKE IT AGAIN HERE.

IF WE DON'T DO THIS, THEN, YOU KNOW, MILLIONS, MAYBE BILLIONS, MAYBE ALL OF US WILL DIE ANYWAY. WHO KNOWS WHAT THAT MANIAC'S PLANNING?



HOW MANY MORE KIDS LIKE YOU WILL SEE THEIR PARENTS KILLED BY HIM?

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THAT.

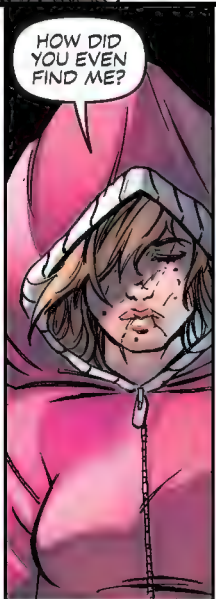
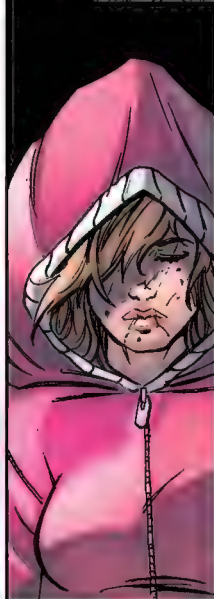


GUYS, FORGET IT. WE DON'T NEED HER.

FINE. WHAT A DAMN SHAME.



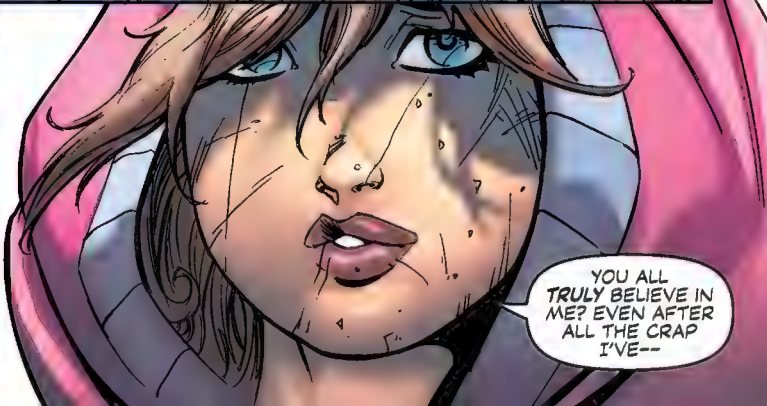
HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND ME?



WE HAVE A GUY WHO CAN WIRELESSLY TAP INTO EVERY SPY SATELLITE THAT EXISTS.



YOU ALL TRULY BELIEVE IN ME? EVEN AFTER ALL THE CRAP I'VE--





MORE
THAN YOU COULD
IMAGINE.

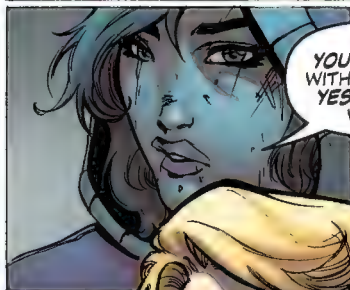


I COULD
CONTROL YOUR
MIND, FORCE YOU
TO JOIN US.



YOU WON'T. YOU
COULD'VE FORCED ME TO
SAY "YES" WHEN YOU ASKED
ME OUT, AND YOU DIDN'T DO
THAT. YOU WON'T DO IT
NOW, EITHER.

THE
STAKES ARE
HIGHER.



AND EVEN
YOU'RE ON BOARD
WITH THIS? IF I SAID
YES, YOU'D BE OK
WITH THAT?



CLAYTON,
CAN YOU
WALK?

NOT WELL...
YET... BUT I CAN
SHOOT.

LESLIE,
I'M ASKING YOU
OUT AGAIN.

IT MAY BE A
DANGEROUS DATE, AND WE
WON'T BE ALONE, BUT WE'LL
DEFINITELY EACH BE GETTING
SOME ACTION.



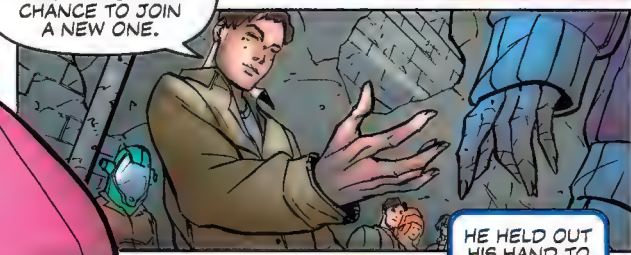
THE PRESS
HAS SAVAGED ME FOR
WHAT I DID.* I'VE BEEN
REAMED FORTY WAYS TO
SUNDAY FOR IT BY MY
FAMILY, FRIENDS.

YOU, OF
ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD
APPRECIATE THE NEED TO
ATONE AND TO MAKE THE
MOST OF SECOND
CHANCES.

YOU'VE BEEN
WITHOUT A FAMILY
FOR MOST OF YOUR
LIFE. NOW'S YOUR
CHANCE TO JOIN
A NEW ONE.



I THINK YOU
MIGHT JUST
ENJOY IT.

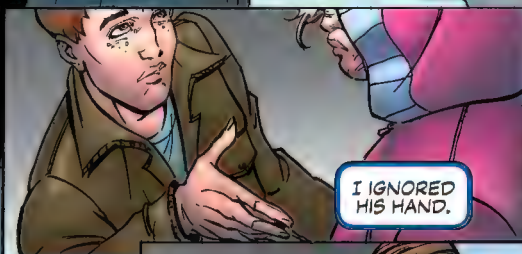


HE HELD OUT
HIS HAND TO
ME.



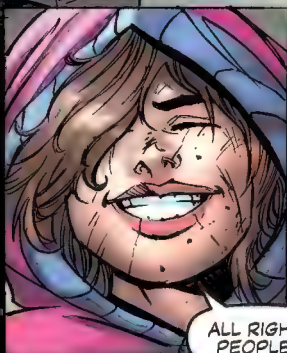
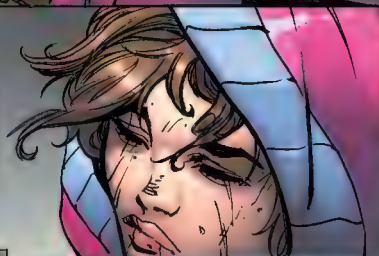
I HESITATED.

* IN IDOLIZED #4



I IGNORED
HIS HAND.

INSTEAD,
I STOOD UP. I
FINALLY STOOD UP
FOR SOMETHING
REAL.



ALL RIGHT,
PEOPLE.

LET'S GO
SAVE THE
WORLD!





IT'S ALSO AN ABANDONED FACTORY, AND IT'S IN KANSAS. A PLACE WHERE A BIG CORPORATION LAID OFF HUNDREDS OF WORKERS, AND DEVASTATED A TOWN IN THE HEART OF MIDDLE AMERICA. SOUNDS LIKE EXACTLY THE TYPE OF PLACE HE'D TAKE OVER.

AND YOU REALLY THINK THAT NOBODY EVER WOULD'VE, LIKE, FIGURED ANY OF THAT OUT BEFORE?

MAYBE NOBODY EVER LOOKED.

LOOK, DOUG'S CONVINCED THIS IS IT, AND I TRUST HIM.

THE WORLD IS REACTIONARY, JANNI. THE HEROES AND GOVERNMENT ARE ALWAYS SO BUSY RESPONDING TO ATTACKS. FORWARD-THINKING INVESTIGATIVE WORK ISN'T EXACTLY THE WAY THEIR GAME IS PLAYED.

OKAY, CAPTAIN AHAB. WE'RE WITH YOU. WHAT'S THE PLAN?

WHAT COULD I SAY? THAT THE PLAN WAS WE GO IN AND LIKELY GET OURSELVES KILLED? THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY SUICIDE, AND THAT WE WERE JUST A BUNCH OF RIDICULOUS KIDS WHO DIDN'T KNOW TO LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?

IT SOUNDED LIKE A REASONABLE ENOUGH RATIONALE FOR WHY WE'D ACTUALLY HAVE A CHANCE.

I COULDN'T SAY THAT, COULDN'T TELL THEM THE TRUTH. THEY TRUSTED ME, BELIEVED IN ME. SO, I SAID, HIDING ANY HINT OF DOUBT FROM MY VOICE--

THE PROTECTORS WERE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE-- WE WON'T BE. THIS TIME, WE'LL BE THE ONES MOUNTING A SURPRISE ATTACK.

ANJELIQUE, WE START WITH YOU...

"FROM THE SATELLITE IMAGES, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE THREE BUILDINGS IN THE FACTORY COMPLEX."

"TWO OF THE BUILDINGS HAVE PEOPLE GOING INTO THEM AT NIGHT AND COMING OUT IN THE MORNINGS. PROBABLY THE BARRACKS."

"RADIUM, CAN YOU MAKE THE PEOPLE IN THERE TEMPORARILY SICK, WITHOUT GIVING THEM PERMANENT RADIATION POISONING?"

"I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING CURE SICKNESS, NOT USING MY POWERS TO CAUSE IT."

"ANJELIQUE, WE--"

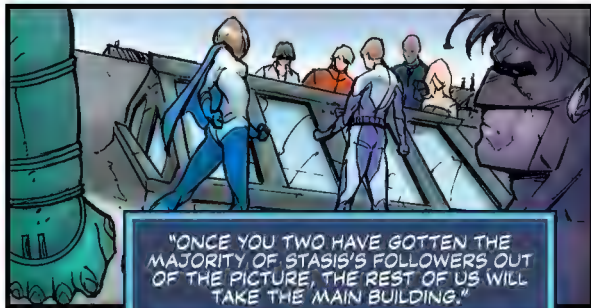
"BUT IF THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO LET STASIS CARRY OUT HIS PLANS? THEN, YEAH, I'LL DO IT. I'LL HATE IT, BUT I'LL DO IT."

"JANNI, CAN YOU USE YOUR POWERS TO TAKE OUT THE OTHER BARRACKS?"

"DROP DOWN THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT..."

"...TRIP EVERYONE OUT?"





"ONCE YOU TWO HAVE GOTTEN THE MAJORITY OF STASIS'S FOLLOWERS OUT OF THE PICTURE, THE REST OF US WILL TAKE THE MAIN BUILDING."

STASIS'S HEADQUARTERS WAS A DARK, RUN-DOWN, OLD ABANDONED COMPLEX, BUT HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAD ACTUALLY TURNED THE AREA INTO A COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT, SELF-SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENT.

THEY GREW THEIR OWN FOOD, SEWED THEIR OWN CLOTHING, EVEN CREATED THEIR OWN ENTERTAINMENT. EVERYTHING WAS EITHER MADE FROM SCRATCH OR RECYCLED FROM BITS AND PIECES OF WASTED MATERIALS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

STASIS WAS DETERMINED THAT THEY NOT SPEND A SINGLE PENNY ON ANYTHING THAT WOULD PUT MONEY IN THE HANDS OF ANY MAJOR CORPORATION.

WE'RE ABOUT TO SEND OUT A VIRUS THAT WILL RAPIDLY AND PERMANENTLY DESTROY ALL DATA ACROSS ALL NETWORKS, WORLDWIDE. ONCE THE DATA'S BEEN DUMPED, A SECOND VIRUS WILL RENDER ALL NETWORKED CE DEVICES, WORLDWIDE, PERMANENTLY INOPERABLE.

THEN, WITH ALL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS DOWN AND THE AUTHORITIES UNABLE TO COORDINATE, WE SWOOP IN AND DESTROY THE MAJOR STOCK MARKETS AND BUSINESS CENTERS, AND BEGIN STRATEGIC ASSASSINATIONS.

GOVERNMENTS WILL FALL. CORPORATIONS WILL BE MEANINGLESS. POWER WILL BE RETURNED TO THE PEOP--

BEFORE WE COULD GET ANY FURTHER DETAILS, THOUGH, WE WERE DISCOVERED AND ATTACKED. SO MUCH FOR OUR PLAN. IT WAS TIME TO IMPROVISE.

AND, WITH THAT...

THERE'S A HELL OF A LOT OF ACTIVITY DOWN THERE. THEY'RE DEFINITELY PREPARING FOR SOMETHING BIG.

CAN YOU TAKE OVER THE MINDS OF ALL OF THEM?

JUST ONE AT A TIME.

FIND THE BIGGEST, MOST POWERFUL LOOKING ONE YOU CAN, AND TAKE HIM OVER. BRING HIM OUTSIDE. LET'S GET ALL THE INFO WE CAN OUT OF HIM, AND THEN SEND HIM BACK IN TO TAKE STASIS DOWN.

THE BATTLE
WAS JOINED.

BUT IT WASN'T
GOING WELL
FOR US.

MYTH WAS JUST STANDING
THERE, DESTROYING SOME
WEAPONS BUT BASICALLY
REFUSING TO HURT
ANYONE.

MINDFULL WAS LETTING ALL
OF HIS PENT UP FRUSTRATIONS
(SOME OF WHICH I HAD PROBABLY
CAUSED) OUT AND ENGAGING IN
SOME PRETTY BRUTAL TACTICS.

RADIUM WAS BEING
TOO TENTATIVE, AFRAID
TO CONTAMINATE ANYONE
ANY MORE THAN SHE
ALREADY HAD.

WE WERE A
DISASTER. AND THEN
HE SHOWED UP.

STOP!



STASIS HAS THE POWER TO STOP ALL MOTION, AND HE'D USED IT TO FREEZE US ALL IN MID-BATTLE. WE COULDN'T MOVE.

SO, THE LITTLE TYKES THINK THEY CAN SHOW UP AND SAVE THE DAY?

SORRY, KIDS. NO HOLLYWOOD ENDING HERE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, I'M CONSIDERED THE GOOD GUY. THEN, YES, IT'LL BE A HAPPY HOLLYWOOD ENDING.

THAT WOULD ACTUALLY MAKE A LOT OF SENSE. I MEAN, WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT THE BAD GUYS. YOU SEE ALL OF THESE PEOPLE? THEY'RE NOT VILLAINS. THEY'RE NOT EVIL.



THEY'RE SIMPLY BELIEVERS. BELIEVERS IN THE IDEA THAT SOCIETY SHOULD BE BETTER. THAT HUMANITY SHOULD BE BETTER. THAT IT'S TIME TO BURN IT ALL DOWN, START OVER AND GET IT RIGHT.

MINDFULL, A WARNING-- DON'T TRY TO TAKE OVER MY MIND AND FREE YOURSELVES. I CAN STOP THE MOTION OF ANY OBJECT, BUT STOPPING HUMANS REQUIRES TREMENDOUS PRECISION.

I'VE GOT TO FREEZE MOST OF YOUR MUSCLES, WHILE ALLOWING YOUR HEART AND LUNGS TO KEEP FUNCTIONING, YOUR BLOOD TO KEEP FLOWING. IT'S TRICKY.



I WOULDN'T ADVISE MESSING WITH IT, LEST YOU UNWITTINGLY KILL YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS. THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY RUIN YOUR WHOLE LITTLE PLAN HERE.



FRANKLY,
I'M AMAZED THAT
YOU'VE COME *THIS FAR*.
THAT YOU'D EVEN HAVE
THE NERVE TO COME
HERE AND ATTEMPT
TO STAND UP
TO US.

I MEAN,
REALLY, WHAT DO
YOU HAVE?



A PACIFIST...

...A GIGOLO...

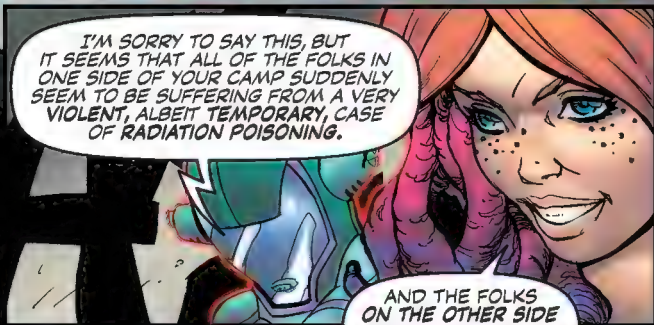
...A CRIPPLE...

...A HIPPIE...



...NEED I
GO ON?

I'VE GOT DOZENS
OF **SUPER-POWERED**
REVOLUTIONARIES HERE
WITH ME, PLUS **HUNDREDS**
MORE NORM FOLLOWERS.
YOU THINK YOUR **TEN LITTLE**
MANUFACTURED REALITY-
TV STARS ARE GOING TO
STAND A CHANCE?



I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT
IT SEEMS THAT ALL OF THE FOLKS IN
ONE SIDE OF YOUR CAMP SUDDENLY
SEEM TO BE SUFFERING FROM A VERY
VIOLENT, ALBEIT TEMPORARY, CASE
OF RADIATION POISONING.

AND THE FOLKS
ON THE OTHER SIDE
ARE ALL FAR GONE
ON A VERY WILD
LITTLE TRIP.



SO, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S
JUST MY **TEN LITTLE** MANUFACTURED
REALITY-TV STARS AGAINST WHOMEVER YOU'VE
GOT HERE IN THIS ROOM. I'D SAY THAT'S
PRETTY EVEN ODDS, @##HOLE.

I SO DESPERATELY WISHED I COULD MOVE AS HE APPROACHED ME. WISHED I COULD BASH HIS SKULL IN, RIP HIM TO SHREDS. BUT I WAS STILL FROZEN IN PLACE. AND THAT WAS PROBABLY A GOOD THING. IT FORCED ME TO WAIT, TO THINK, INSTEAD OF JUST ACTING.

I NEEDED TO BE **BETTER** THAN I WAS. **SMARTER**. TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES. TO NOT JUST GIVE IN TO HATE AND ATTACK BLINDLY AGAIN. BY FREEZING ME IN PLACE, IT TURNED OUT THAT HE WAS ACTUALLY **HELPING** ME WITH THAT.

AH, LESLIE...

...IS IT TRUE THAT I CAUSED THE DEATH OF YOUR PARENTS?

IF SO, I'M **HONESTLY** TERRIBLY SORRY. IT'S CERTAINLY NEVER MY GOAL TO HURT INNOCENTS. DOING SO TRULY HAUNTS ME, AND I KNOW THAT MY SOUL IS LIKELY DAMNED BECAUSE OF IT.

BUT THIS IS A WAR, A WAR FOR THE VERY HEART OF HUMAN SOCIETY, AND THERE ARE ALWAYS HORRIBLE SACRIFICES AND INNOCENT CASUALTIES IN WARS.

IT'S JUST THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. BUT IT'S SAD. AND I'M SORRY.

I WISH YOU'D ALL SEE THE OTHER SIDE. THAT YOU'D JOIN US IN OUR QUEST. I LOVE YOUR **SPIRIT**, YOUR **DESIRE**. THE GENERAL POPULACE ADORES YOU ALL, WOULD TRUST AND FOLLOW YOU.

WELL, MAYBE NOT **YOU** ANYMORE LESLIE, OR YOU, CARTER. BUT THE REST OF YOU COULD EACH BE **GREAT LEADERS** IN OUR NEW WORLD.

YOU COULD HELP US TO USHER IN A **GLORIOUS** FUTURE.

RADIUM.

I'VE GOT TO THINK MY OFFER WOULD APPEAL TO YOU, ESPECIALLY.

IMAGINE A WORLD WITH NO MORE OF THE HARMFUL PESTICIDES, RADIATION, BIO-ENGINEERED FOOD. ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU'VE BEEN RAILING AGAINST, ALL THE THINGS THAT KEEP US SICK AND OBESE, ALL GONE.

ISN'T THAT **EXACTLY** WHAT YOU WANT? WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING **SO HARD** FOR?

I WAS WORRIED SHE'D TURN. SHE HAD TO HAVE BEEN SORELY-- AND **UNDERSTANDABLY**-- TEMPTED.

MY HEART WAS BEATING OUT OF MY CHEST AS SHE SPOKE AND SAID--

WHAT I **REALLY** WANT...

...IS FOR MINDFULLY TO TAKE OVER SOMEONE ELSE!



STASIS WAS
DOWN, AT LEAST
MOMENTARILY...



...AND THAT GAVE
US OUR OPENING.



ALL OF THIS TALKING HAD BOUGHT TIME FOR WIRELESS TO TAP INTO THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND TRY TO STOP THEIR VIRUS FROM GOING LIVE.

BUT EVEN WITH ALL OF STASIS'S PONTIFICATING, I STILL DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS ENOUGH TIME.

EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON WIRELESS.

DON'T WORRY, DOUG. I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

ALMOST THERE...

AND WHEN HE GOT SLAMMED IN THE BACK, KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS, I WAS AFRAID THAT ALL HOPE WAS LOST. THAT WE'D FAILED. I'D FAILED. AGAIN.

MYTH, I CAN'T HOLD THESE GUYS OFF FOREVER. YOU'VE GOTTA STEP UP HERE. I KNOW YOU DON'T WANNA HURT ANYONE, BUT THEY'RE KILLING US. IT'S SELF-DEFENSE--

WHEN REGENERATE GOT HURT...

THIS SUCKED. I'D MADE RADIUM COMPROMISE HER MORALS, NOW MYTH WAS GIVING UP HER PACIFIST WAYS AND HURTING PEOPLE, AND I HAD NO IDEA WHETHER THE KEY TO OUR PLAN-- WIRELESS--

--HAD BEEN EVEN REMOTELY SUCCESSFUL.

SELF-DEFENSE. I'VE JUST GOTTA KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT...

...MYTH HAD FINALLY HAD ENOUGH, AND SHE SNAPPED.

IT WAS ALL WRONG. WITH MYTH FINALLY ENGAGING, WE'RE STARTING TO WIN THE PHYSICAL FIGHT, BUT WE'D LOST THE WAR, WE'RE LOSING OUR SOULS.



SUDDENLY,
HE WAS BACK
UP AND IN MY
FACE.

AT THAT
POINT, I'D
HAD IT.

MY EVERY BLAST, EVERY MOMENT, WAS POWERED BY
RAGE, BY DESPERATION, BY EVERY LAST OUNCE OF DESPAIR
THAT'D TORTURED MY SOUL FOR SO MANY YEARS.

I'D TRIED TO
HOLD IT ALL BACK
BUT NOW, AT THIS
MOMENT, ALL I
SAW WAS RED.

OUR POWERS
CANCELLED EACH
OTHER OUT-- ENERGY
VS. STASIS. NEITHER
ONE OF US COULD
GAIN THE UPPER
HAND.

SO WE GOT
PHYSICAL.

WE JUST STARTED
BEATING THE LIVING
DAYLIGHTS OUT OF
EACH OTHER.

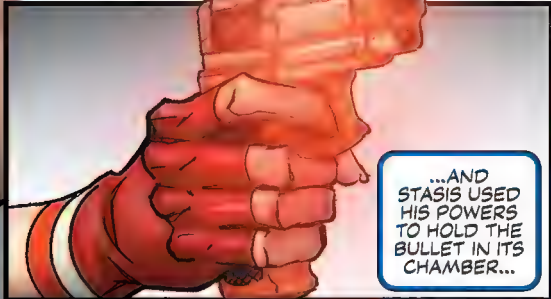




SHE WANTED TO
FINISH THE JOB.
TOOK A GUN OFF A
FALLEN MEMBER
OF STASIS'S GANG.



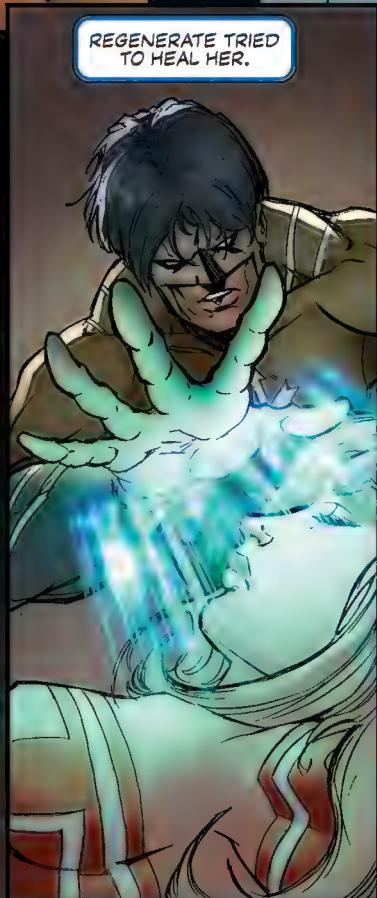
BUT TIME
RE-STARTED...



...AND
STASIS USED
HIS POWERS
TO HOLD THE
BULLET IN ITS
CHAMBER...



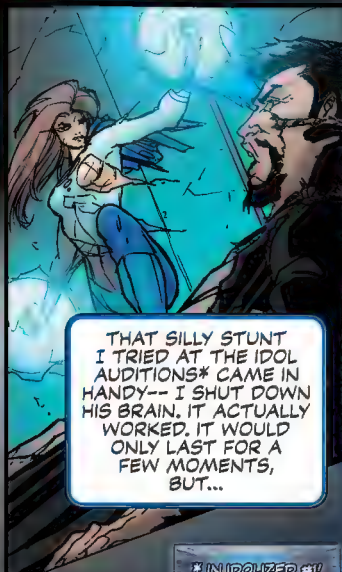
...CAUSING THE DAMN THING TO EXPLODE IN HER HANDS.



REGENERATE TRIED TO HEAL HER.



AND WHILE STASIS WAS DISTRACTED, I ATTACKED.



THAT SILLY STUNT I TRIED AT THE IDOL AUDITIONS* CAME IN HANDY-- I SHUT DOWN HIS BRAIN. IT ACTUALLY WORKED. IT WOULD ONLY LAST FOR A FEW MOMENTS, BUT...

* IN IDOLIZED C!



...NOW I HAD HIM. THE PART OF ME THAT WANTED TO BE A BETTER PERSON WAS GONE, BECAUSE I HAD HIM, AND I JUST WANTED TO DESTROY HIM, TO SMASH HIM APART.



HE WAS
UNCONSCIOUS.
HELPLESS. BUT
I COULDN'T
STOP.

I HIT
HARDER.
AGAIN AND
AGAIN.

I SO
WANTED HIM
DEAD. THIS WAS
EVERYTHING I'D
EVER DREAMED
OF. I COULD
TASTE IT.

DO IT,
LESLIE. GET
YOUR REVENGE.
LET IT ALL
OUT.

GO ALL
"TRUE GRIT"
ON HIM.

I DON'T
KNOW WHY, BUT
SOMEHOW...

...SOMETHING
ABOUT HER SAYING THAT
SUDDENLY RESONATED
WITH ME. STOPPED ME
IN MY TRACKS.

I SAW "TRUE GRIT."
IN THAT MOVIE, THE GIRL
GOT HER REVENGE, BUT IT
COST HER AN ARM AND, MORE
IMPORTANTLY, IT COST HER HER
SOUL. SHE LIVED THE REST OF
HER LIFE TORTURED, COLD,
BARREN AND ALONE.

I'M NOT
GONNA BE
THAT GIRL. I'VE
LIVED ENOUGH
OF MY LIFE
THAT WAY.

I'M BETTER
THAN THAT. I'VE
GOTTA BE.

@#% REVENGE.
IT'S NOT ABOUT
REVENGE. CARTER
WAS RIGHT. THIS
MOMENT-- THIS
MOMENT I'VE
BEEN WAITING SO
LONG FOR?

IT'S ABOUT
REDEMPTION.

IT'S ABOUT MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES. IT'S NOT ABOUT ME AND MY PETTY, WHINY CRAP. AT THIS MOMENT, IT'S ABOUT SAVING THE WORLD.

YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM THERE. WHEN HE COMES TO, HE'LL--

THERE'S NO TIME! DID WIRELESS SHUT DOWN THEIR VIRUS? IF NOT, WE'VE GOTTA GET HIM BACK ON HIS FEET AND WORKING ON IT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I WAS ACTUALLY PROUD OF MYSELF. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED FROM HERE ON OUT, IT WAS OK, BECAUSE I KNEW THAT, FOR ONCE, I HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING.

JANNI, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE PROTECTORS. IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE HERE SOMEWHERE, THEY CAN--

I'D TURNED MY BACK.

TROOPER HADN'T.



AND
THAT WAS
IT.

ONE SHOT,
AND STASIS WAS DEAD.
ALL THIS BUILD-UP, ALL
THIS DRAMA IN MY LIFE,
AND IT WAS SUDDENLY
OVER.

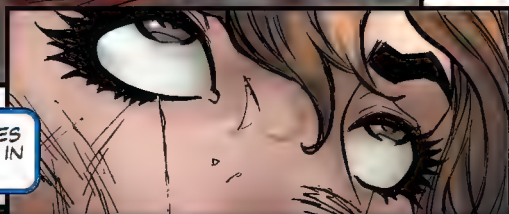
WHAT
TROOPER DIDN'T
REALIZE WAS THAT HIS
SHOT DIDN'T STOP
WITH STASIS.

IT WENT RIGHT
THROUGH HIM...



...AND
INTO ME.

FOR AS
LONG AS I COULD
REMEMBER, MY HEART
HAD ALWAYS BEEN COLD
AND HARDENED. OBVIOUSLY,
NOT HARD ENOUGH TO
KEEP IT FROM BEING
PIERCED.



I COULD FEEL MY EYES
ROLLING BACKWARDS IN
MY HEAD.

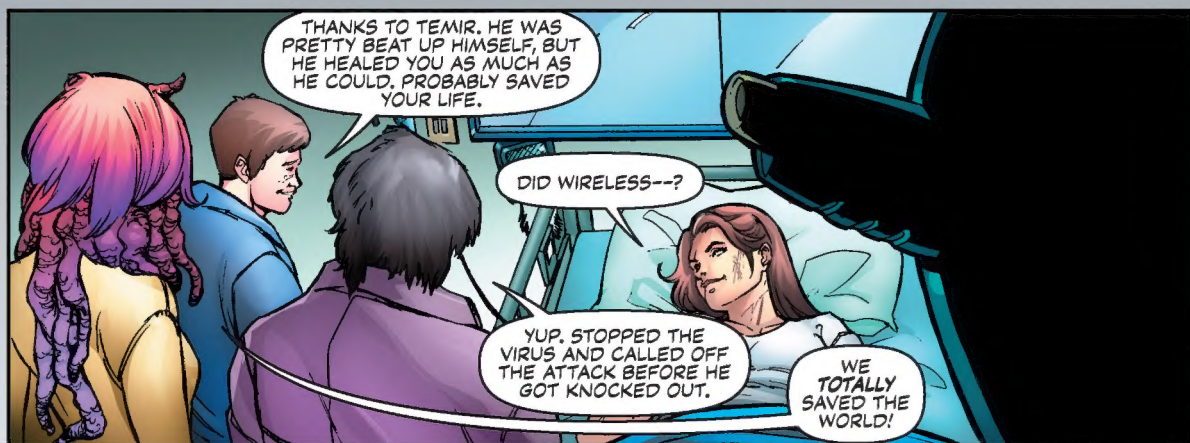
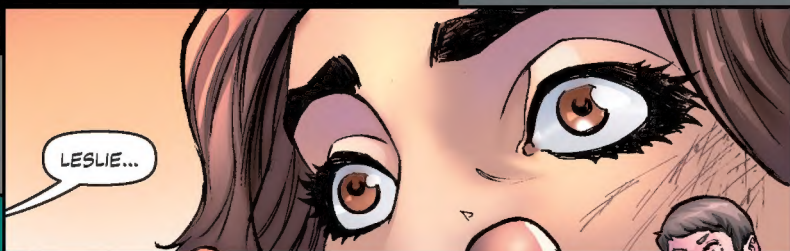


AND I WAS
GONE.

LESLIE?

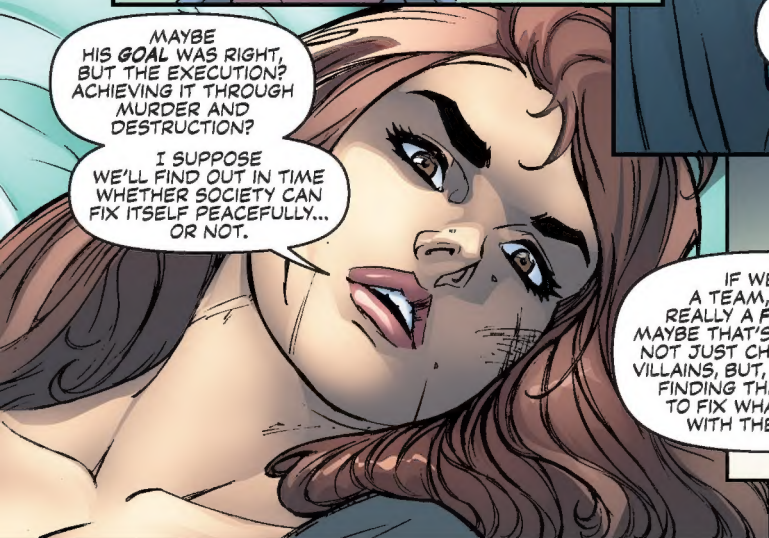
LESLIE...

LESLIE...





THE WORLD LOVES US. LOVES YOU. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE, ALL GATHERED THERE TO PRAY FOR YOUR RECOVERY.
IT'S PRETTY FREAKIN' AMAZING.



MAYBE HIS GOAL WAS RIGHT, BUT THE EXECUTION? ACHIEVING IT THROUGH MURDER AND DESTRUCTION?

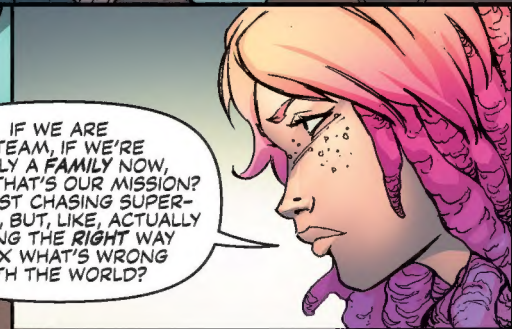
I SUPPOSE WE'LL FIND OUT IN TIME WHETHER SOCIETY CAN FIX ITSELF PEACEFULLY... OR NOT.



IS IT? I WONDER... WAS STASIS RIGHT?

THE WORLD IS A MESS. MAYBE SOCIETY ACTUALLY NEEDS TO BE COMPLETELY RE-BOOTED.

MAYBE STASIS WASN'T THE BAD GUY HERE. MAYBE WE WERE.



IF WE ARE A TEAM, IF WE'RE REALLY A FAMILY NOW, MAYBE THAT'S OUR MISSION? NOT JUST CHASING SUPER-VILLAINS, BUT, LIKE, ACTUALLY FINDING THE RIGHT WAY TO FIX WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD?



WHAT SHOULD WE CALL OURSELVES?



YOU'RE GOING TO BE CALLED "THE IDOLS."

WHAT? YOU DON'T--

SORRY, BUT YOU KNOW THOSE CONTRACTS YOU SIGNED WHEN YOU AUDITIONED? WE OWN YOU GUYS FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS.

YOU'RE "THE IDOLS." WE'RE ALREADY CREATING THE MERCHANDISE.

AND WE'VE ALREADY GOT YOUR FIRST MISSION LINED UP. TAKE A FEW DAYS TO HEAL. YOU SHIP OUT NEXT WEEK.

AND IF
YOU THINK
STASIS WAS BAD,
THEN TRUST US,
YOU'RE GONNA
LOOOOVE THIS
ONE...



END SEASON ONE.